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AND

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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	397
Leading Articles:—	
Mr. Chamberlain's Birmingham Speech	398
The Proposed Pacific Cable	398
The Interregnum in the Governorship and Pending Questions	399
Railway Concessions to a British Syndicate.....	399
The Causeway Bay Recreation Ground	399
Climatic Conditions and Plague	400
Mr. Ede's Departure	400
The Manila Cable and the War	400
Supreme Court	400
The Transfer of Weihaiwei	401
Railway Concessions in China	401
Spanish-American War	401
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	402
Hongkong Sanitary Board	404
The Plague	405
The Caine Road Murder	405
The Bank Note Forgery	407
An Unlicensed Distillery Unearthed	407
Admission of a Solicitor.....	408
A. S. Watson and Co., Limited	408
New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited	408
Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited	408
The Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited	409
Jebeu Mining and Trading Co., Limited	409
Correspondence	409
British North Borneo	409
The Russo-Chinese Convention	410
Russo-Japanese Korean Convention	411
More Russian Demands	411
A New Mining Concession	411
The Shasi Riot	411
How Spain Exploits the Philippines	411
Hongkong and Port News	412
Commercial	413
Shipping	416

BIRTHS.

On the 13th May, 1898, at Capsuimoon, the wife of A. E. FRANKUCHER, of the Chinese Maritime Customs, of a daughter.

At Shameen, Canton, the wife of Mr. BRÖCKELMANN, of a son.

On the 18th May, the wife of Inspector J. T. COTTON, Animal Depots, Kennedytown, Hongkong, of a daughter.

DEATH.

At Yokohama, on the 15th May, MURIEL AGNES, the dearly loved wife of Charles David WILKINSON, of Hongkong. (By telegram.)

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

There have been no arrivals of mails during the week.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H.M.S. *Esk* has been ordered to Shasi in connection with the riots there.

The 7th June has been fixed as the date for the transfer of Weihaiwei to Great Britain.

Grosser and Schultz, the bank note forgers, arrested at Singapore, have been sentenced, the former to ten years' penal servitude and the latter to eight.

The vote of thanks passed by Congress to Admiral Dewey adds ten years to his age limit of retirement, and will make him at the end of the present year the Senior Admiral in the U.S. Navy.

According to the *Foochow Echo* Mr. P. von Tanner, of the Imperial Maritime Customs, goes to Funing to open the port and Count de Galemberg is appointed Deputy Commissioner at Foochow.

Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., who arrived at Shanghai by the last Empress boat, brings with him, the *China Gazette* says, a staff of mining engineers with whom he will proceed into Shansi to inspect the mining concessions he has obtained in that region.

The *Echo* states that a good deal of uneasy feeling was rife among the natives at Foochow about the prolonged stay of the French ships *Descartes* and *Jean Bart*. It has again been rumoured that an attempt would be made by the French to land men at the Arsenal.

According to latest reports the situation at Manila remained unchanged and all was still quiet. It is probable, however, that an active movement may shortly be made by the insurgents, as Aquinaldo left Hongkong on the 17th May by the *Hugh McCulloch* to take charge of their forces in the field.

Sir Henry Blake, the new Governor of Hongkong, who was to have left England on the 1st May, has obtained an extension of leave and will not arrive until the autumn. The decision must have been arrived at rather suddenly, as it was evidently supposed when the recent banquet was given to Sir Henry in London that he was on the eve of his departure.

The *Batavia Nieuwsblad* considers that the war between the United States and Spain by checking the trade in Cuban and Philippine sugars, will raise prices to the benefit of Java planters. The war, also, by increasing the demand for quinine is expected to raise the price of cinchona bark, one of the products of Java. But on the other hand, freights will also rise. A blockade of the Philippines will, besides, check the trade in copra, a leading export staple there. This will turn to the profit of coconut planters in Netherlands India.

Referring to the departure of H. E. Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the Hukuang provinces, for Peking, the *N. C. Daily News* says:—Owing to the various encroachments upon the integrity of the Empire a special secret meeting of the Emperor's Councillors is intended to be held soon, which H. E. Chang has been invited to attend, H. E. being universally considered one of the most reliable props of the Empire. One of the principal questions to be discussed is the desirability of continuing Peking as the residence of the Emperor and his Court.

A letter from Mr. C. F. Tremlett, H.B.M. Consul at Saigon, is published in the *Gazette*, with the following enclosure giving the latest decision of the Council of Health:—Vessels from Hongkong without passengers or "susceptible" cargo will be visited at Cape St. James, and, if the doctor sees no reason to the contrary, will be permitted to proceed to Saigon. At Saigon the crew must be kept on board. Cargo must be discharged by them. Cargo must be loaded by them. Ship to be disinfected. Pilot to remain on board. Libre partique on the ninth day as previously. Drinking water to be renewed on arrival.

A Shanghai special telegram to the *Daily Press* states that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank have secured a concession for the building and working of a railway from Shanghai to Nanking with probable extensions and also for the working of the Shanghai and Woosung line.

There was a big fire at Kobe on the 4th May in which the Tokiwa Hotel and half the Jiyntei Hotel and three houses were burnt down. The Tokiwa Hotel was set on fire by a cook, who then murdered a young woman employed in the hotel and committed suicide. A coolie looking on at the fire dropped down dead from apoplexy. The loss by the fire is partially covered by insurance.

A dispatch received by the native officials from Germany states that the three fast protected cruisers of 4,000 odd tons' displacement ordered from the Vulcan works, and the four torpedo gunboats ordered from Schichau, may be expected to arrive at Shanghai during the months of June and July next *en route* for Tientsin, at which port they will be turned over to the Chinese Government. These vessels are to be navigated by the contracting firms, under the German flag, from Germany to China, so that if any accident occur to them *en route* "the responsibility may not rest with the Tsungli Yamèn or the crews which have to be sent to bring the ships over."—*N. C. Daily News*.

A French writer states that a dainty highly esteemed by Celestial gourmands consists of young mice, which are served alive to the guests, who dip them in a pot of honey and slowly swallow them one by one. At the marriage feast of the present Emperor of China more than 50,000 of these little creatures were served. Is this a romance or has the statement any foundation in fact? We have never heard of young mice as a dainty before, but we read some time ago of a clergyman in America who was sleeping with his mouth open, when a mouse ran in and woke him. He tried to pull it out by the tail, but the animal wanted to go the other way and held on to his throat with its claws, giving him rather a bad time before it was finally dislodged.

A Reuter's telegram of the 15th May states that Mr. Chamberlain speaking at Birmingham, said that the foreign situation was serious and critical, and that the time was perhaps not far distant for an appeal to the patriotism of the people. Great Britain stood alone and it was therefore the duty of the whole Empire to draw closer together, and next it was the duty of the Empire to draw closer to their American kinsmen. Any war would be cheaply purchased if it ended in an Anglo-Saxon alliance. Continuing, Mr. Chamberlain said the situation in China was extremely unsatisfactory. Great Britain was unable to declare war against Russia without an ally and her interests in China were so enormous that no more vital question had ever been presented to the Government, and unless the fate of China was to be decided without England the latter must not reject alliances. A subsequent telegram states that Mr. Chamberlain's incidental references, in his speech at Birmingham, to Russia's disregard of promises in the Chinese negotiations is strongly commented upon on the Continent and has caused a fall on the Bourses.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S BIRMINGHAM SPEECH.

(18th May.)

The summary of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S speech at Birmingham given by Reuter is of such an extraordinary nature as to suggest doubts as to the accuracy of the report. The speech naturally falls into two divisions, the first dealing with foreign affairs in general, and the second with affairs in China in particular. The foreign situation, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said, was serious and critical, and as he went on to say that any war would be cheaply purchased—a curious expression, by the way, since war is a thing to be avoided and not desired—if it ended in an Anglo-Saxon alliance, it is to be presumed that the seriousness of the situation turns chiefly on the complications that may arise out of the present war between the United States and Spain. So far there is little exception to be taken to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S expressions, for the situation undoubtedly is serious. The Continental Powers resent America's attack upon Spain, fearing that it may mark the commencement of a further great expansion of Anglo-Saxon influence which may dominate European politics. Great Britain is therefore vitally interested, for European intervention in the quarrel would range Great Britain by the side of America and an almost world-wide war might result.

It is when we come to the special reference to affairs in China that we find Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S speech so extraordinary. He says that "Great Britain was unable to declare war against Russia without an ally" and that "unless the fate of China was to be decided without England the latter must not reject alliances." It is incorrect to say that England is unable to declare war against Russia without an ally. She could declare war to-morrow and feel well assured of victory. Even if our weakness were as great as Mr. CHAMBERLAIN represents it to be it would be undesirable to proclaim it from the house-tops. But if we were wholly dependent upon alliances for the protection of our just rights the Empire would very soon have to "shut up shop." When Mr. CHAMBERLAIN says, in connection with the China question, that England must not reject alliances, the reference is obviously to Japan. Now, while it is England's policy to cultivate the good-will of Japan and to command her respect and confidence, a permanent and formal alliance with that Power is not in itself a thing to be desired. Japan is fickle in her character and still subject to waves of anti-foreign feeling. If she entered into an alliance with Great Britain she would expect to derive great advantages from it herself and if her expectations were disappointed there would be a danger of her resentment being directed against her ally; while on the other hand it is doubtful if her friendship would stand the strain of a demand for great sacrifices. A temporary alliance for the attainment of a specific and well defined end comes in a different category, but countries between which there is no racial affinity cannot be depended upon to maintain an alliance of a permanent character which the course of events may at any time render prejudicial to the interests of one of them for the time being.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said the situation in China was extremely unsatisfactory. The telegram does not tell us whether he explained in what respect the situation was unsatisfactory, or why Great Britain should wish to make war upon Russia. Mr. CHAM-

BERLAIN'S speech is the more extraordinary coming so soon as it does after Mr. BALFOUR'S statement in the House of Commons on the 5th April. Parliament meets again to-day and we may expect shortly another debate on the China question, in which Mr. CHAMBERLAIN will have the opportunity of more fully explaining himself. We may possibly also have a statement as to whether Lord SALISBURY intends to continue in the office of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Can Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S speech at Birmingham have been intended as a bid for the reversion of that office, an attempt to inflame popular passion to the point of demanding a warlike policy in regard to the China question and the placing in the office of Foreign Secretary of the chief exponent of that policy? We should be sorry to think so, but the suggestion presents itself with some force. Speaking in the House of Commons Mr. BALFOUR said he did not feel the need either of apology or excuse for the policy the Government had pursued; it was a policy which had already borne, as he thought, rich fruits in the interests of British commerce, both as regards our commercial interests and as regards our immediate political interests at Peking. He confessed that the Government did not like the Russian acquisition of Port Arthur, but, he said, by the acquisition of Weihaiwei we prevented the Gulf of Pechili from falling under the undisputed maritime control of any one Power. As to the commercial expansion of Russia in China Mr. BALFOUR spoke in the most friendly tone. If, he said, he had to choose whether he would leave any region of China wholly undeveloped or whether he would have it developed by railways, hampered though those railways might be by differential duties, he would say, so far as our commerce was concerned, altogether apart from our rights, he would far rather have the railways and the duties than neither railways nor duties; and he did not believe that anybody who had studied the course of international trade with an impartial eye would deny that in holding that view he had, at all events, got a case which it would be pretty easy to defend by statistical arguments. Manchuria, however, has been retained as an open market, and we are to have the railways to which Mr. BALFOUR referred without differential duties. What has happened within the last month to bring about the great change in the political situation of the Far East which Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S speech would seem to indicate? Russia is reported to have asked for a lease of Kinchow, but surely that is nothing to declare war about. The whole of Manchuria must inevitably come under Russian influence, but so long as the trade is left open on equal terms to all comers we fail to see that Great Britain is called upon to interfere. We are afraid Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S speech has been characterised by a great deal of indiscretion. When the full report is received, however, it will probably be found that the China question occupied but a subsidiary place in it, and that attention was chiefly directed to the Spanish-American complication. It is in that direction, and not in China, that Great Britain is at present in danger of being embroiled.

The Raub mining report mentions the discovery of another extensive gold lode in the Raub Hole, at a great depth. It promises to be quite as good as the old lode, hitherto worked there, which has yielded several thousands of ounces of gold. In fact, it is stated that this find is equivalent to the discovery of a fresh mine.

THE PROPOSED PACIFIC CABLE.

Very recently we referred at some length to the proposals for a Pacific cable to connect Canada with Australasia, as part of a great scheme to unite the whole British Empire by telegraph laid through British waters only, and gave an outline of the arguments addressed to Sir WILFRID LAURIER, the Premier of the Dominion of Canada, by Sir SANDFORD FLEMING in favour of this enterprise being taken in hand at once. At the time Sir SANDFORD FLEMING wrote, there appeared little prospect of the Australasian Colonies coming to a definite agreement as to the share they would take in the enterprise; but since then there would seem to have been a quickening influence at work, for *The Times* of the 15th ult. states that the Australian Premiers in conference have agreed that if Great Britain and Canada will contribute two-thirds of the cost of a Pacific cable, Australasia will subscribe the other third. In Canada an influential deputation has waited on the Premier and laid before him a proposal that a Pacific cable trust should be created under authority of the Parliaments interested in the scheme, with power to raise the necessary funds, and proceed to the work of laying the cable. *The Times* takes up the question warmly, and vigorously advocates the immediate construction of this most necessary work, strongly maintaining that the need for a cable across the Pacific is every day more potent. It says:—"The position, very briefly summarized, is as follows. Commercial civilization has been spreading eastward and westward from its more active centres till at both extremities its extension has reached the shores of the Pacific. It finds the largest ocean of the inhabited world as yet untraversed by a single line of telegraphic communication. When the West wishes to communicate with the East or the East with the West across the dividing water the message has to be sent backwards round two hemispheres. Yet swift communication is the soul of commerce, and commerce is the soul of every flourishing modern community established on the shores of the Pacific." The great London daily then goes on to point out that the Anglo-Saxon communities on the shores washed by the Pacific and in the East Indies are in their nature industrial before all things. "Japan," it adds, "has passed through an industrial second birth. Russia is pushing industrial enterprise on the northern Asiatic coasts. France has not shrunk from heavy cost to establish a commercial footing in the south. Germany has made her latest move, we are asked to believe, in the interests of commerce. Thus north and south and east and west, the ocean is surrounded by rival nationalities. In presence of these waiting Powers, indications are given that the immense commercial field of China is about to be thrown open. Instantly the waters of the Pacific are alive. The military and political movements which have taken place are but the forerunners of other intercourse." This cannot be doubted; an enormous impetus will be given to trade when the preparatory work of opening up the country, now about to commence, has got well in hand.

Our London contemporary, like Sir SANDFORD FLEMING, is properly anxious that the opportunity now offered for British enterprise to lead the van and provide the needed telegraphic communication across the bosom of the broad Pacific shall not be neglected until too late, when a foreign rival

has shown the way. It is stated that the cost of an all-British cable to connect Vancouver with the nearest Australian port would be about one and a-half million pounds sterling. The construction has, indeed, been tendered for at that figure. This would be the main line, with one branch to join the San Francisco proposed connection with Hawaii, and another to Japan, the China ports, and Hongkong. This would create a British network of cable communication which would, for many years to come, we imagine, in conjunction with existing cables, provide for telegraphic communication, not only for the British Empire but between most other countries. There ought to be no difficulty in financing so modest a scheme as this. If the Australasian colonies contribute one-third, Great Britain and Canada might readily guarantee the remaining million, as with such guarantee the money would be forthcoming at once. *The Times* is of opinion that the scheme, though of wide utility, is of such modest financial dimensions that one rich man could proceed to the construction of the cable out of the resources of a private fortune, and that "it might be safely left to the operation of private interest but for the fact that in the present somewhat exceptional condition of affairs, when all eyes are turned to the Far East, time may become a question of importance." This is exactly where the shoe pinches. Time presses if British capital is to be first in the field and British enterprise the first to put a "girdle round the world." It is sincerely to be hoped that the Premier of the Dominion will espouse this question with his utmost energy and induce Mr. CHAMBERLAIN to recognise its importance without a moment's needless delay. Such a cable would not only be of the highest strategic and commercial importance but it would likewise be a most useful and practical agent in binding together the principal component parts of the mighty empire over which the union jack now so proudly floats. It would also, and that is certainly a consideration, be a means, let us hope, of breaking up the monopoly now enjoyed by the Great Northern and Eastern Extension Telegraph Companies, who while deservedly enjoying a high reputation for conducting the service with efficiency and despatch have nevertheless on occasions imposed on the public changes in the tariff which have given grave dissatisfaction. The primary benefits that might be expected to accrue from a Pacific cable, however, are the stimulus it would give to trade, the sense of security it would confer from the fact that the whole service would be in British territory, and the link it would forge to bind together the widely scattered sections of the Anglo-Saxon family.

THE INTERREGNUM IN THE GOVERNORSHIP AND PENDING QUESTIONS.

As Sir HENRY BLAKE is now not expected to arrive before October General BLACK will have a more prolonged tenure of the office of Acting Governor than was at first anticipated, and his responsibilities will be proportionately increased, for while it is natural that during a very brief interregnum the *locum tenens* should allow important matters to stand over until the arrival of the next substantive holder of the office, that cannot, with due regard to the public interest, be done when it is known that the interregnum is to be a long one. And just at present the colony has reached an important point in its history which calls for the exercise of able statesmanship on the part of

the head of the administration. The deferring of the new governor's arrival at such a crisis almost suggests a doubt whether he is to come at all, or whether some change in the system of government may not be in contemplation by which the Officer Commanding the Troops would be permanently placed at the head of the civil administration. This is a change that has often been discussed, and although originally the feeling of the community was very much against it there has of late been a tendency to regard it more favourably provided it be accompanied by an extension of municipal self-government. Whatever arguments may be advanced pro and con on that question, however, the Officer Commanding the Troops is actually at the head of the administration now, and we could hardly have a better man to deal with the critical questions that will come up for settlement during the next few months. The Kowloon extension will, it is understood, have to be taken over in June, when a large area with a not inconsiderable population will be added to the colony, and arrangements will have to be made for the administration of the new territory, a work that may be attended at first with some difficulty and for which a considerable staff of officers will be required. It is possible also that questions may arise during the next few months in connection with the proposed Canton and Kowloon Railway. Another difficult question that should be faced at once is the passing of the necessary legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Insanitary Properties Commission. It would be almost criminal to defer this matter until the arrival of the new Governor, for after our painful experience of the plague it must be recognised on all hands that no time should be lost in setting the sanitation of the colony in order. Another military Acting Governor—General CAMERON—was in office when the first Public Health Act was passed, and he grappled with the subject firmly and ably, in the face of a good deal of opposition. General BLACK, we have no doubt, will be found equally ready to take the necessary measures for the preservation of the public health, tedious and trying as the public discussions on the subject may prove. The present time is also a somewhat critical one for the Government owing to the Spanish-American difficulty and the endeavours of the Philippine insurgents to make Hongkong a base of supplies. General BLACK, however, we have no doubt will be found fully competent to deal with all these various questions as they arise, and with Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH as Acting Colonial Secretary he has a good and safe lieutenant, so that on the whole the prolonged interregnum in the Governorship may be regarded with equanimity.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS TO A BRITISH SYNDICATE.

The granting of the Shanghai-Nanking and Shanghai-Woosung railway concessions to Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is good news for British interests in China. There has of recent years been a good deal of talk about the granting of railway concessions to syndicates of various nationalities, and it is extremely satisfactory to find that after all a British combination is the first in the field. No definite information is at present available in Hongkong as to the terms of the concession or the interests represented, but it is believed that JARDINES and the Bank are the nominees of a powerful London syndicate, and that the present concessions are but the forerunners of others. No doubt

a public company will be formed, and a portion of the shares may be placed on the local market to afford investors in China and Hongkong an opportunity of becoming interested in the undertaking. It is particularly appropriate and gratifying that Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.'s name should again be associated with the Woosung Railway, as the firm owned the principal interest in the original Woosung Railway, which was so unfortunately sacrificed to the Moloch of fengshui and torn up twenty-two years ago.

We would suggest to the parties who have interested themselves in the proposed Canton and Kowloon Railway that the present would be a favourable time to again push forward their scheme. Possibly it might also be to their advantage to endeavour to secure an amalgamation with the syndicate which has obtained the northern concessions. Hitherto it has been found impossible to effect satisfactory arrangements with the local officials at Canton, but now that the Chinese Government has determined upon railway construction and is willing to sanction the employment of foreign capital under foreign direction it might be desirable to transfer the negotiations from Canton to Peking, and as the JARDINE and Bank combination already possesses a footing there it would probably be in a better position than any one else to advance the scheme. It has been stated that in the recent arrangement arrived at between Great Britain and China the right to construct a railway from Kowloon to Canton has been expressly granted, so it is very possible the promoters might for the mere asking obtain a ready assent to their proposals.

THE CAUSEWAY BAY RECREATION GROUND.

It will be remembered that after the Diamond Jubilee celebration last year a petition was extensively signed praying for the permanent retention of the Polo Ground at Causeway Bay as a public recreation ground. We are glad to hear that there is a prospect of the petition being granted and the ground in question being permanently dedicated to the use of the public. There is no question of the use of the ground being granted to the Polo Club exclusively, as in the case of Deep Water Bay and the Golf Club. The Polo Club does not desire such exclusive rights, nor with General BLACK at the head of the Government, would it be likely to obtain them if it asked for them. General BLACK, we believe, is a firm upholder of public rights in such matters and has been associated with movements for the preservation of ancient footpaths and rights of way in the Highlands of Scotland as against the encroachments of landed proprietors. It may therefore be assumed that the gallant General during his tenure of office in this colony will be no party to shutting out the public from public recreation grounds. The retention of the ground at Causeway Bay is not desired for the purposes of polo alone, but for recreation in general, and the Polo Club will be content to use it in common with other clubs and the general public. We have on previous occasions written on the importance of preserving this ground from the builder and there is little that is new to be said on the subject, except that our predictions as to the growth of manufactures in the neighbourhood is receiving steady fulfilment and that the necessity for a recreation ground becomes proportionately more accentuated. The

Recreation Ground at Happy Valley is insufficient for the requirements of the colony and the demands upon it become greater every year, so much so that in the last allocation of days and pitches amongst the various clubs using the ground or desiring to use it the Kowloon Football Club was left out in the cold, somewhat unjustly as it seems to us, for that club has equal rights with any other club. The laying out and turfing of the Causeway Bay Ground will afford much needed relief to the Happy Valley Ground, and we hope that the whole matter will shortly be settled on a satisfactory basis.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AND PLAGUE.

In an article in the *Times of India* on "Climatic conditions and plague" mention is made of an extraordinary fact which may possibly have an important bearing on the causation of plague at Bombay, namely, a steady rise of the ground temperature there within the last twenty years. It is well known, says our contemporary, that the diurnal wave of heat due to solar radiation is not felt beyond nine inches below ground, and the annual variation not further than eleven feet. The mean ground temperature at a depth of 132 inches at the Colaba Observatory was 82.4 in 1880. It has steadily risen and in 1897 we find it was 84.1. No suggestion is offered as to the cause of this rise, except incidentally that a rise in temperature must accompany the decomposition and ferment set up by filth, and presumably at the Observatory conditions of filth do not prevail. Whatever the cause of this increase of ground temperature may be, however, it must exercise an appreciable influence upon the emanations from the soil, for the greater the difference of temperature between the ground and the air the greater the ground evaporation. It has been suggested, that plague is a malarial disease. If that suggestion be in accordance with fact, we may possibly find in the increase of ground temperature the real cause of the disease. Not much is known of the life history of the bacillus, but it is generally supposed to have its habitat in the soil, and it may be that it is there at all times but becomes malignant only under certain conditions of the soil and atmosphere interacting upon each other. All this of course is mere speculation, but it seems to open up a wide and possibly not unprofitable field of scientific investigation. In Hongkong, so far as we are aware, no record has hitherto been kept of subsoil temperatures, but in view of the remarkable observations at Bombay this is an omission which should now be remedied. In this connection mention may be made of the reported inadequacy of the instruments for scientific investigation with which the Medical Department is provided by the Government, not even satisfactory microscopes being supplied. If we are ever to thoroughly master the plague it is desirable that we should try to find out all about it, and a liberal expenditure on the means of investigation is dictated by common prudence. The investigation of ground temperatures would presumably fall within the province of the Observatory, but setting aside the distinction of departments we trust the Government will not exhibit any spirit of parsimony in providing all that may be necessary for the proper working of that great and important department to which all scientific observers belong, namely, the "intelligence department," so that we may be made acquainted with the enemy's movements and the means by which he can best be got at and defeated.

MR. EDE'S DEPARTURE.

In Mr. N. J. EDE, who left on the 18th May on his retirement from business, the colony loses one of its oldest, most successful, and most useful citizens. Mr. EDE came out to the Far East in 1862 to the insurance department in the firm of DENT & Co. In 1870 he was appointed Secretary of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, and the great and uninterrupted success of that institution is to be ascribed in large measure to the diligence and ability exercised by him in the management of its affairs. Mr. EDE has also taken a keen and intelligent interest in public affairs, and has been more particularly associated with the sanitation of the colony. He was appointed a member of the original Sanitary Board thirteen years ago and when the Board was reorganised and had its constitution fixed by law he was reappointed. During the whole of that time he has devoted careful attention to the business of the Board, never playing to the gallery, nor, for the matter of that, to the dress circle, or in any way striving for effect, but bringing to bear upon the various complicated and difficult questions that came before the Board the same scrupulous care that characterised his management of his own affairs and those of the successful company with which he has been so long and honourably associated. The Board's hands were tied to a great extent by the restricted nature of its powers, but Mr. EDE always endeavoured to make the most of what powers there were and to render the Board a substantially useful institution. He was absent from the colony at the time that the other unofficial members of the Board resigned as a protest against the attempt of Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON'S Government to place further restrictions upon its action. What course Mr. EDE would have adopted at that time had he been present we cannot say, but on his return to the colony he resumed his seat on the Board and as the sole remaining representative of the public continued to discharge with zeal and fidelity the onerous duties his position imposed upon him. Turning to matters of recreation we find Mr. EDE a prominent figure in the yachting world, and in bidding him farewell we are sure the community will join with us in wishing him many years of pleasant cruising in the Solent, near which we hear it is his intention to take up his residence.

THE MANILA CABLE AND THE WAR.

No information can be obtained with reference to the probable date of the re-establishment of telegraphic communication with Manila. The cable is, of course, a neutral enterprise, and therefore the Company owning it cannot repair it for the exclusive use of one of the combatants only. Admiral DEWEY, however, declines to sanction its use by the Spanish Government, and thus a dead-lock is set up. The injury to business caused by the existing state of things is of course a mere incident of the war as to which there is nothing to be said, but there is another aspect of the interruption of telegraphic communication which is worthy of mention, and that is the danger to shipping caused by the cessation of the storm warnings from Manila. Those warnings have in the past proved of the utmost advantage to shipping and have no doubt saved many a good vessel from loss. The typhoon season is now once more upon us and at such a time a lengthened interruption of telegraphic communication cannot but be regarded with uneasiness.

SUPREME COURT.

16th May.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

MANA SINGH V. YEUNG KAU.

This was an appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Wise, sitting in summary jurisdiction of the court, in the suit *Mana Singh v. Yeung Kau*, in which plaintiff claimed from defendant (appellant) the sum of \$590, principal and interest due on a promissory note dated June 29th, 1897, given by defendant to one Yeung San and endorsed to plaintiff.

Mr. Francis (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) appeared for appellant and Mr. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for plainiff.

The Chief Justice said they had given consideration to the question of the course of argument, and they had decided that it should be divided into two portions. The difficulty in the way of the appellant was this: he had to distinguish that case from the case decided by the full court in 1895, or if he could not distinguish it, he had to satisfy the court that he ought to be allowed to impeach the authority of that decision. Supposing he succeeded in either of these points the case would be open for argument, but supposing he failed on these points the case would be at an end.

Mr. Francis observed that their lordships had changed the view they held on the last occasion the case was before the court and had put the parties to unnecessary expense, because on the previous occasion he could *ex parte* have dealt with the points suggested by their lordships, and then if their lordships had decided against him there would have been an end of the case without bringing the other party into court. But they gave him leave to bring the parties into court, and their lordships intimated that the matter should be fully argued. He must confess that if on the last occasion he had had the present intimation from their lordships he should not have served notice on the other side.

Mr. Pollock said that if their lordships had not mentioned it he should have made application to their lordships to deal with the matter exactly in the same way as laid down by their lordships.

The Chief Justice—It may be that we may be able to settle the whole matter to-day.

After some little further discussion,

Mr. Francis said that to show what their lordships required he would have to discuss the entire question from beginning to end. Continuing, he said that in furtherance of permission granted when the case was previously before the court, notice of motion was served on the other side that they proposed to apply for leave to appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Wise on the ground that the maker of the note in question was on the date of such note an infant and incapable of incurring any such liability. The claim was for \$590 principal and interest. He asked their lordships' attention to the fact that interest was claimed. It was clear from the evidence in the court below that the maker of that note—the defendant in the suit—was at the time he gave the note and at the time he was sued an infant under 21 years of age. The case before the court in 1895—*Tang Kit Shang v. Ng Pak To*—was this:—The person sued was admittedly at the time he was sued over age, and therefore section 11 of the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1873, did not apply to him, because section 11 said:—"No person shall be precluded or exempted from suing or being sued for any debt or damages not exceeding \$1,000 by reason of his not having attained the full age of 21 years or by reason of coverture where the husband shall not be resident in the colony." There was another distinction between the two cases. In the case of 1895 the claim was for a sum of \$200, money lent. Interest was not claimed, and there was no question of a promissory note. The suit now before the court was a suit specifically brought on a promissory note and for interest. Defendant in the case was admitted

to have been an infant when he borrowed the money and was also admitted to have been an infant at the time he was sued. It was needless for him to take up the time of the court in contending that had it not been for section 11 of the code defendant in the case now before the court would not have had a bad case.

Mr. Pollock—We are quite prepared to admit that.

Mr. Francis, continuing, said he thought his learned friend would also admit that while an infant might make himself liable for necessities it was perfectly clear in point of law that he could not make a promissory note, and that his contract so made was not merely voidable but void. He would also ask their lordships' attention to the fact that somewhat recently in England the whole common law with reference to the liabilities of infants had been rendered much more stringent, and a special Act had been passed which made void a number of contracts which before were voidable only at common law.

The Chief Justice—And it also affects the question of the affirmation of contracts.

Mr. Francis said yes, and continuing added that the question here was what was the effect of section 11 of Ordinance 14 of 1873. In the judgment of the full court in the case of 1895 some reference was made to the history of that section, and the history of that section was to be traced from Ordinance 9 of 1845.

Mr. Pollock said his learned friend was doing what their lordships laid down he was not entitled to do. He was trying to pick holes in the previous judgment. He submitted that the only thing his learned friend was entitled to do was to show that there was a distinction between that case and the case now before their lordships and that they, therefore, ought not to be bound by the decision of the full court in 1895.

Mr. Francis said he could not move their lordships to disregard that judgment without pointing out the defects of that judgment. He proposed to show that that judgment was plainly and manifestly unfounded and not according to the fair custom of the realm.

Mr. Pollock said the judgment of the full court of 1895 directly affected the dealings between the parties in the present case. When the promissory note was given in 1897 plaintiff had the fullest right to consider that a subsequent full court would be bound by the previous full court and that he was quite safe in taking a promissory note drawn by an infant. He would submit that his learned friend ought certainly to quote some cases if he could—he did not think he would be able to do so—in support of his contention that that court ought not to be bound by the full court of 1895.

Mr. Francis submitted that he was of sufficient standing to have his word accepted when he said he had a thoroughly sound argument to put before their lordships. There were exceptional cases, and he contended that this was one of them.

After consulting with his learned colleague for a few minutes,

The Chief Justice said he confessed he felt some difficulty in this case. When the court laid down a certain course of procedure it was usual for counsel to comply at once with the suggestion of the court. But at the same time if Mr. Francis thought he could not do justice to his client without going into the other matter he should be reluctant to refuse to hear him.

Mr. Justice Wise—I agree, but simply on the ground that it is an appeal from a decision given by myself.

Mr. Francis then proceeded to argue on the whole question. He submitted that the words of section 11 did not profess to alter the common law. They did not profess to take away any defence which an infant might have in regard to debts. They only professed to enable him to sue or to be sued. He submitted that the section was to be interpreted as dispensing with the obligation of an infant suing by his next friend and that was all.

Mr. Pollock having addressed the Court on the points raised by Mr. Francis the further hearing was adjourned.

17th May.

The appeal was dismissed with costs, the court not seeing their way to depart from the

decision given in the case of Tang Kit Shang v. Ng Pak To in March, 1895.

18th May.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THROWING PEPPER INTO A BOY'S EYES.

An Chung and Tak Sin were charged with (a) applying and administering pepper with intent to enable them to commit larceny from the person; (b) larceny from the person. The offence was alleged to have been committed on April 14th. Complainant was a boy 15 years of age named Ung Tin, an apprentice to Lo Tung Kee, of Pokfulam Road, tailor.

Defendants pleaded not guilty.

The jury was composed of the following:—Messrs. M. E. Kozhevar, D. P. J. Lopez, J. M. de Graca, F. W. Hall, M. J. Aquina, W. H. Gaskell, and C. C. H. Schroter.

The Attorney General (the Hon. W. M. Goodman), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denays (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution. He said the boy had been sent out to collect goods given out by his master to seamstresses. He had collected seven pieces of clothing. The last place he called at was in Queen's road West. When he had got downstairs and was about to come out two persons came up to him in the doorway. One—first defendant—threw pepper in his eyes, a most cruel thing to do, and the other man snatched the bundle from him. They then ran away. An excise officer saw what took place, but he thought they were skylarking until he saw the boy running after them and heard him calling out. The excise officer never lost sight of first defendant until he was arrested and taken to the police station by a constable. There would therefore be no doubt as to the identification of the first defendant, whom complainant also identified. The other man made off and deposited the clothing in a doorway in Sai On lane, where it was found some time afterwards. It was in consequence of some information given by first defendant that second defendant was arrested the following day at the house at which first defendant lived.

Complainant, the excise officer, and a Chinese police constable gave evidence, the constable saying that he was positive as to the identity of both defendants.

Inspector McDonald also gave evidence.

The mother of second defendant said her son was working all day on April 14th and was at home on the following day. It subsequently transpired that the woman had only recently come into the colony, and his Lordship strongly reprimanded her for making a false statement, stating that had she not been the mother and evidently very ignorant he would have punished her for giving false evidence.

First defendant was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and second defendant to 15 months' imprisonment.

THE TRANSFER OF WEIHAIWEI.

TO TAKE PLACE ON THE 7TH JUNE.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SHANGHAI, 17th May.

The transfer of Weihaiwei has been postponed until the 7th June.

[It was originally expected that the transfer would take place on the 16th inst., but some delay seems to have occurred in the withdrawal of the Japanese Garrison. Latest advices from Japan state that the evacuation was to be completed on the 3rd June.]

A Kobe telegram of the 11th May to the N. C. Daily News says:—At a meeting of the Japanese Cabinet on Monday, it was decided to order the evacuation of Weihaiwei, the Imperial approval being obtained. Orders have been issued for six steamers to be chartered as transports.

Another Kobe telegram of the same date to the China Gazette says:—Eight Japanese Government transports have left Ujina to bring back the Japanese troops to Hiroshima from

Weihaiwei. The evacuation will be completed by 3rd June, when Weihaiwei will be surrendered to the Chinese with all the buildings erected by the Japanese, as they stand since the occupation. The Japanese garrison at present numbers some 4,500 troops.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS IN CHINA.

MESSRS. JARDINE, MATHESON & CO. AND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SHANGHAI, 17th May.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank have secured a concession for the building and working of a railway from Shanghai to Nanking with probable extensions and also for the working of the Shanghai and Woosung line.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

MORE NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

CAPTURE OF A SPANISH REVENUE CRUISER.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF CONSUL WILLIAMS AT CAVITE.

THE FOOD SUPPLY AT MANILA.

16th May.

It is not likely that the cable which connects Manila with the outside world will be repaired for some time, as the Americans and the Telegraph Company cannot come to terms. The Company wish the cable to be at the service both of the Spaniards and the Americans, but to this the latter will not consent. Hence the deadlock. Fortunately the beleaguered city is only 48 hours, steaming from Hongkong, and as arrangements have been made for the sending off of despatches as frequently as possible we shall be kept fairly well informed of the progress of events in the Philippines.

The British gunboat *Linnet* arrived with the mails on Thursday, and at noon yesterday an American boat was signalled, it being subsequently discovered that the *Hugh McCulloch* had once more put in an appearance. On this occasion, however, she did not come into the harbour but cast anchor in Chinese waters in Kowloon Bay.

Admiral Dewey has been given a free hand in regard to his dealings with Manila, but unless the Spaniards fire on his vessels or there is some disturbance in the city it is not expected that he will do anything more than blockade the place until the troops which have set sail from San Francisco arrive. They are coming out in the *City of Peking* under the charge of the cruiser *Charleston*. The latter is a cruiser with a steel hull, a displacement of 4,940 tons, and of 7,500 indicated horse power. She carries two 8-in., six 6-in., four 6-pounder quick-firing guns, two 3-pounder quick-firing guns, two 1-pounder quick-firing guns, and six machine guns, and carries fish torpedo dischargers. Her speed is given as from 18.7 knots to 19.19 knots. She was launched in 1888 and carries a coal supply of 800 tons.

When the *Hugh McCulloch* left Manila on Thursday no change had taken place. All was quiet in the city, the streets being practically deserted. Food is, however, getting scarcer, and in consequence prices are very high. The natives in the city have been driven to killing their horses for food.

A Spanish revenue cruiser sailed right into the jaws of the enemy last week. For some sixteen months she had been on duty in the south, and was ignorant of the stirring events of the last few months. She knew nothing about the war, or about the Americans being in possession of the Bay, and came along unconcernedly flying the Spanish flag and asking for

the Admiral of the Spanish fleet. Several shots from the American ships she at first thought had been fired by the Spaniards at target practice. As they began to come inconveniently near, however, she soon found out her mistake, and discovering that the enemy was in strong force she hauled down the Spanish flag and hoisted a white one, whereupon a boat's crew from the *Raleigh* boarded her, informed the Captain of the state of affairs, and took possession of the vessel, the crew being landed on parole. Shortly afterwards flying "Old Glory" and in company with *Concord* she was paraded in front of the city so that the Spaniards could learn her fate.

When Consul Williams landed in Cavite last week he had a most enthusiastic reception. The place was crowded with Filipinos, who made the welkin ring with their cries of "Vivos los Americanos." As he made his way through two long lines of people men, women, and children struggled to shake him by the hand, and the British Consul (Mr. Rawson-Walker), who was with him, said he had never before witnessed such a display of friendship.

As soon as the *Hugh McCulloch* was signalled Consul-General Wildman put off in a launch, in which the mails were afterwards brought ashore.

THE "PIQUE" GOES TO ILOILO.

17th May.

The *Hugh McCulloch*, which has been anchored in Chinese waters in Kowloon Bay since her arrival, returns to Manila to-day with the mails, which are exceptionally heavy.

H.M.S. *Pique*, which is to be relieved on this station by the *Hermione*, left the harbour yesterday afternoon for Iloilo, whence it is expected that she will proceed to England without returning to Hongkong. Her visit to Iloilo is no doubt in connection with the present disturbed condition in the Philippines. British interests are largely represented at Iloilo.

As the Spanish revenue cruiser *Callao*, captured by the Americans as she, unconscious of the war, entered Manila Bay, had called at Iloilo, it may be that the inhabitants of that place, which is 250 miles distant from Manila, may be still unaware of the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Spain.

On Saturday the Japanese cruiser *Nanika* sailed for Manila. The *Akitsuishima* is already there.

ARRIVAL OF THE "ESMERALDA." ALL QUIET IN MANILA.

18th May.

Yesterday morning the *Hugh McCulloch* left Kowloon Bay for the purpose of rejoining the American squadron at the Philippines, and in the afternoon the *Esmeralda*, which had been absent since Thursday, April 28th, steamed into the harbour. She left Manila on Friday evening last with the mails and about 300 passengers, about 20 of whom were British and the rest Chinese. She went round by Amoy and landed most of her passengers there, coming on to Hongkong with 30 Chinese passengers and the following Europeans:—Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Todd and child, Miss Beatrice Earnshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Thistlewaite, child, and amah. Mr. and Mrs. D. Souza and amah. Miss D. Souza, Messrs. Robert Hug, O. D. Saunders, C. Zuber, W. Robertson, H. A. Barrett, W. Coney, W. Macleod, Robert Vogler, Eugene Russell, and E. Josefson.

Our readers may remember that the *Esmeralda* left Hongkong for Manila on Thursday, April 28th. She passed Corregidor Island soon after the American squadron. No objection was raised to her going forward and she secured a Spanish pilot. She was passing the harbour at Cavite when the engagement between the American and Spanish fleets had been resumed after breakfast. How the *Hugh McCulloch* was sent to her to order her to drop anchor and hold no communication with anyone until she received permission from the American Admiral our readers will remember, and they will also call to mind the fact that owing to the Spaniards getting it into their heads that she had piloted the enemy's fleet into the harbour it was deemed advisable to keep her close to the American vessels lest the Spaniards wreaked their vengeance on her.

On our representative mentioning the story about the *Esmeralda* having acted as pilot to the Americans to one of the officers yesterday afternoon, he ridiculed the idea, adding that he

did not know how in the world the Spaniards could suppose this for a moment. "As a matter of fact," he continued, "the Americans needed no one to show them the way into the Bay, as it was all plain sailing for them."

"When we left Manila on Friday night all was quiet. For two or three days after the fight the Spaniards in the city were very much down in the month, and in the evenings all the thoroughfares were in darkness, but by the time we left they had pulled up somewhat and in the evenings the electric light was in full blaze."

"We had no contact with the shore. We simply complied with the orders of the American admiral and the Commander of the *Immortalite* and were guided by them."

"There is no truth in the statement that fancy prices have been paid for deck passages, the amount paid being only a little more than ordinary."

"I can't say when we shall be returning to Manila."

AQUINALDO LLAVES HONGKONG FOR MANILA.

Among those who left Hongkong for Manila in the *Hugh McCulloch* yesterday morning was Emilio Aguinaldo, who has been lying *perdu* in Hongkong since his arrival in the *Malacca* from Singapore at the beginning of the month. He is accompanied by Colonel Marcelo H. del Pilar, his A.D.C., Mr. J. Leyba, his private secretary, and fifteen others who form his Council.

The *Singapore Free Press* states that General Aguinaldo had his passage taken from Singapore by the *Malacca* under the name of "Mr. Bunting." Mr. Leyba, Private Secretary, was Mr. "Newman," while Col. del Pilar, Aide-de-camp, was "Mr. Honorio."

THE DEAD AND WOUNDED.

AT MANILA.

At the request of the Spanish Government the Secretary of States at home has enquired of H. E. Major-General Black particulars with regard to the dead and wounded at Manila. His Excellency has communicated with Consul-General Wildman on the subject.

MORE AMERICAN TROOPS FOR MANILA.

A Reuter's telegram stated that the United States has decided to send 15,000 instead of 5,000 men to Manila.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 11th May, 1898.—Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), G. B. Dodwell, A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held 12th April), were read and confirmed.

THE DISCOVERY OF A PINNACLE ROCK IN HAITAN STRAITS.

A letter was, on the 19th April, addressed to Mr. Edgar, Commissioner of Customs, Foochow, acknowledging receipt of his letter announcing discovery of the rock declared to be the one on which the steamer *Namoa* struck, and suggesting the award of \$50 from the Pinnacle Rock Fund to Capt. Pi. of the Chinese gun-vessel *Namtung*. [As the papers had not published this correspondence, it was decided to have it printed and circulated among the members.]

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PASSENGERS ON RIVER STEAMERS.

Read the correspondence which had passed with the Government on this subject, the last letter, dated the 7th inst., pointing out that the modification proposed by the Sanitary Board would not work, and again suggesting discontinuance of the inspection.

INLAND TAXATION ON FOREIGN IMPORTS.

A further letter from Mr. Brennan, British Consul at Canton, dated 19th April, having been received, in which he stated that the Chinese Authorities were trying to make the lekin tax less objectionable by changing its denomination to the *tsu-li* or destination tax, and thereby to neutralise the to them evil effects of transit passes,

A letter was, on the 27th April, addressed to H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking, bringing the whole question again to his notice, and urging that steps should be taken to procure a final and satisfactory solution of the question of internal taxation.

A reply to Mr. Brennan was despatched on the same date, notifying him of the action taken.

PROPOSED RECTIFICATION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF HONGKONG.

A telegram had been despatched to the Foreign Office strongly urging the vital necessity for rectification of the boundaries of the colony, together with covering despatches to the noble Lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, which latter were transmitted through the Government.

EXPORTERS AND THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

Read joint letter from nine firms engaged in the export trade, dated 6th inst., in which they complain of the action of the Shipping Conference in repeatedly altering rates, in an upward direction, without giving adequate notice of such changes.

The Secretary was instructed to reply to the effect that while the Committee sympathise with the exporters under the circumstances as advised, they do not feel justified in taking up the question, but would suggest joint representation of their case by the firms to the conference.

QUARANTINE.

Read letters from Government (dated 14th April and 4th and 5th May) announcing the imposition of quarantine against vessels arriving from Hongkong, Canton, and Macao at Rangoon and Calcutta, with enclosures.

MR. WATTS'S CASE.

No reply having been received to Mr. Watts's last application in connection with his claim, on the 26th April the Chamber addressed the British Consul at Canton asking what further steps had been taken, and intimating the possible necessity for referring the whole case to the British Minister at Peking.

RESIGNATION FROM THE COMMITTEE.

At the conclusion of the business, Mr. Dodwell tendered his resignation, as he was leaving for home on the 19th inst. He expressed the pleasure he had experienced in serving on the Committee, and added that he should always take a keen interest in the doings of the Chamber.

The Chairman said the Committee much regretted to lose Mr. Dodwell's services, and hoped on some future day the Chamber might have the opportunity of again profiting by them. They all wished him a pleasant voyage home.

Mr. Whitehead having endorsed the remarks of the Chairman, the resignation was accepted.

(Correspondence.)

THE "NAMOA" ROCK.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 19th April, 1898.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., announcing the discovery, by Mr. Harbour Master Stevens, in conjunction with the captain of the Chinese gun-vessel *Namtung*, of a submerged rock at the entrance of the Haitan Straits, believed to be the one on which the s.s. *Namoa* struck in October last, and enclosing copy of a notice to mariners you intended to issue in connection therewith.

I am directed by my Committee to express their appreciation of this discovery, and to tender you their thanks for the prompt communication to the Chamber of the same, as well as for the means taken to make the danger known to mariners.

My Committee are of opinion that Captain Pi should receive a reward from the Pinnacle Rock Fund, and would suggest, if you have not already taken action in the matter, and approve the suggestion, your application to the British Consul at Foochow for payment of the maximum sum determined upon, namely, fifty dollars,—I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To H. Edgar, Esq., Commissioner of Customs, Foochow.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Hongkong, 20th April 1898.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the recent Sanitary Board regulations in regard to the medical examination of all passengers arriving here from Canton and Macao, which have been enforced from the 11th inst.,

We would be glad if your Chamber will ascertain from the Government whether any cases of plague have been discovered in our steamers, and, should none have occurred, whether they can see their way to modify the regulations, which cause great inconvenience to the travelling public.—We are, dear sir, your obedient servants.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents, China Navigation Co., Limited.
T. ARNOLD, Secretary,
The Hongkong, Canton, & Macao
Steamboat Co., Limited.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1898.

Sir,—The great inconvenience to which the travelling public are subjected in consequence of the enforcement on the river steamboats running between this port, Macao, and Canton, of the medical examination of all passengers, has been brought to the notice of this Chamber.

My Committee understand that since this examination was instituted on the 11th instant, at the suggestion of the Sanitary Board, only one case of plague has been discovered on any of the steamers, and that except the commencement of the enforcement of these regulations. If this be the fact, they would respectfully suggest that the detention of the steamers for an examination which is apparently practically resultless might either be discontinued or that some modification of the regulations might be made that would render the examination less inconvenient to the Steamboat Companies and their constituents.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1898.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo relative to the enforcement of medical examination of passengers on board the river steamboats running between this port, Macao, and Canton, and to state that the representation of the Chamber of Commerce in the matter is receiving consideration.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 7th May, 1898.

Sir,—With reference to the medical inspection of passengers on board the river steamboats, I note that at yesterday's meeting of the Sanitary Board it was resolved to recommend that the inspection should take place after the vessel came alongside the wharf instead of, as at present, at the quarantine anchorage.

It has been pointed out to the Chamber that, except perhaps in the case of the day boats, this arrangement could not work and would be no improvement on the existing system. With the night boats arriving at midnight the only way, if the vessel went alongside, to keep the passengers on board would be to close up the ship, which step could not fail, in the hot weather now prevailing, to cause much suffering and possibly to lead to serious disturbance.

My Committee would therefore respectfully urge upon the Government the discontinuance of the inspection, which, owing the superficial manner in which it is necessarily carried out, can be of little real value, while imposing great trouble and inconvenience on the Steamboat Companies.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 13th May, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant in which you refer to a resolution of the Sanitary Board recommending that the medical inspection of river steamers should take place at the steamers' wharves, and in which you further not only indicate the objections to such an arrangement but also urge the discontinuance of medical inspection.

In reply, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, appreciating the objections mentioned by you, has been unable to accept the modification recommended by the Sanitary Board.

His Excellency, however, feels obliged to adopt the opinion of the official Government experts as to the best method of safe-guarding the health of the colony, and is therefore unable at present to accede to your request that the medical inspection should be abolished.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
The Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

LEKIN AND TSOI.

H. M. Consulate.

Canton, 19th April, 1898.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 11th instant I beg to state that I am not aware that any change is about to be made in the mode of collecting likin in this province; that is, any change that will substitute regularity and uniformity for the present confusion and uncertainty. The likin authorities are trying to make their operations less open to objection by changing the name of the tax; they believe that foreign Powers will say nothing against a destination tax (tsoli); so that what was formerly called likin is now called tsoi; and, as much as is practicable, it is being collected at destination.

The provincial officials now believe that they have discovered a way of turning our flank and neutralising the, to them, evil effects of transit passes. If they have their way the permission to sell transit pass goods *en route* will not be of as much value as I hoped. In communicating to me this modification of the transit pass rule the Viceroy laid down that no matter whether the merchant carried the goods to their original destination, or sold them *en route*, it was incumbent on the Chinese purchaser to pay tsoi as soon as he obtained possession of them.—I am, sir, your obedient servant.

BYRON BRENAN.

The Chairman, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 27th April, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to thank you for your interesting despatch of the 19th inst. from which my Committee learn with regret that the inland taxation on foreign imports continues to be shrouded by irregularities and confusion, and for the improvement of which you seem unable to hold out any present prospect.

This Chamber had been led to hope, from the apparent readiness with which it was promised you should be supplied with a list of the tariffs at the different destinations, that some definite information would be vouchsafed with regard to the actual amount of taxation foreign goods incurred before they reached the hand of the consumer; but, when the manner of collection of the taxes is considered, this seems as far from realisation as ever. My Committee are strongly of opinion that no stone should be left unturned to compass this necessary end, and are therefore on the point of again addressing Her Majesty's Minister on this subject, bespeaking his continued efforts to enforce on the Chinese Government a scheme whereby consistent taxation can be guaranteed, and the present condition of uncertainty finally terminated.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,
Chairman.

To Byron Brenan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Canton.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 27th April, 1898.

Sir,—Since this Chamber had the honour of receiving your valued despatch of the 14th October last, the Committee have been anxiously awaiting the desired information as to internal Customs tariffs, for which Mr. Consul Brenan applied to the Canton authorities. These tariffs have at length been supplied to the Consul in such a form as to be practically valueless for the purpose of discovering the actual taxation which foreign imports have to undergo before they reach the consumer. In short the correspondence with Mr. Brenan only tends to illustrate the heartbreaking work of combatting native duplicity with which he has had to contend, without leading to any explicit statement of the final imposts charged at the various destinations.

Seeing no prospect of any immediate satisfaction being obtained from that quarter, my Committee naturally turn to your Excellency to beg that you will be pleased to carry into effect your promise to address the Tsung-li Yamen on the subject. They sincerely trust that your Excellency will not, even in the press of other important matters claiming your attention, lose sight of this from a commercial standpoint vital question of taxation on imports. This Chamber is not alone insisting upon its signal importance to the welfare of trade; the China Association has taken up the question with much ability and energy, having demonstrated in a convincing manner to the Foreign Office the restrictive effect produced by the exactions of the provincial officials; while the experience, frequently placed on record, of the various Consuls, will amply sustain our contention.

My Committee are distinctly of opinion that the admission of the legality of the tsoi tax was impolitic, as it appears to confer a right to collect an indefinite amount of duty on foreign goods at their destination. The tax having been recognised, however, they respectfully submit that the importer has at any rate the right to demand full and accurate information of what these destination taxes consist in every district and what is the manner of their collection. The Committee entirely concur with the China Association in the opinion that such flagrant abuse has been made of the elasticity with which foreign States have allowed their treaties to be interpreted in the matter of taxation that it is quite time to insist upon the rigid enforcement of their stipulations, the foreign text being taken to decide the meaning.

The difficulty of providing for provincial necessities without having recourse to the levy of illegal and unauthorised exactions on foreign trade has not escaped my Committee, but it is hardly their province to suggest a solution of that problem, which it is the duty of the central Government at Peking to resolve. Whether or not it would be more economical to place the collection of all taxation on imports and exports in the hands of the Imperial Maritime Customs and apportion a percentage of the receipts to the different provincial administrations or not is for His Imperial Chinese Majesty's Ministers to decide. In any case, it is a fact for them to take into their consideration that the increase in the revenue which would result from an unshackled foreign trade throughout the empire would more than compensate for the loss of the revenue derived from the present internal taxes, owing to the wasteful costliness of collection.

Sincerely trusting that Your Excellency will be enabled to arrive at a final and satisfactory solution of this question, which has for many years hampered trade and led to endless annoyance,—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

R. M. GRAY,
Chairman.

Sir Claude Macdonald, K.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
H.B.M.'s Minister, Peking.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 28th April, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, a copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber to H. E. Sir Claude M. Macdonald, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking, on the subject of the

internal taxes on imports in China.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

Secretary.

To Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

EXPORTERS AND THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

Hongkong, 6th May, 1898.

Dear Sir,—We the undersigned shippers herewith beg leave to draw the attention of your Committee to a matter which repeatedly on previous occasions has created great dissatisfaction, and has also caused losses to exporters.

There being a fresh cause for complaint at present we beg to submit that the matter is of sufficient importance to call for the attention of your Committee.

As you will be aware, homeward freights are regulated by the "Conference," the management of whose affairs is, we understand, carried on at home. This Conference has from time to time altered the rates, the tendency in the last year being to raise them.

Now it is not any advance in rates that we are objecting against, but what we do object against, and what we consider as seriously handicapping those firms which are interested in the export trade, is the sudden way in which these alterations are forced upon shippers without any previous warning, and that as a rule they come in force within a few days after having been notified.

Moreover, very often the steamship agents do not even consider it necessary to inform their constituents that changes have taken or will take place.

This, we beg to submit, is a very arbitrary proceeding, and venture to think that the shippers by and supporters of the Conference steamers are justly entitled to be treated with more consideration in the way of being notified of intended changes, and by enforcing same after a reasonable time only, say, at the very least, one or two months.

The argument put forth by shipping agents that exporters may protect themselves by booking forward does not hold good. Owing to the uncertainty of the dates of departure of the steamers and of delivery of the produce on the part of the native seller, it is nearly always very difficult, if not impossible, for the exporter to bind himself for months ahead to a certain steamer or a certain line even.

Moreover there are certain articles like soy, crackers, essential oils, camphor, &c., which many steamers refuse to take at all or which the steamer agents will decide upon only a few days before the steamer arrives in port.

Trusting that your Committee will share our view of this question and decide to take steps to improve the present state of affairs,—We are dear sir, yours faithfully.

REUTER, BROCKELMANN & Co.

p. pro. H. W. RUMCKER

HARLING, BUSCHMANN & MENZELL

LUTGENS, EINSTMANN & Co.

p. pro. BRADLEY & Co.

F. SMYTH

CHINA EXPORT & IMPORT & BANK Co.

p. PAUL STAVE

p. pro. WM. MEYERINK & Co.

H. F. MEYERINK

FERD. BORNEMANN

p. C. PLATE

GROSSMANN & Co.

LAUTS, WEGENER & Co.

R. C. Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 13th May 1898.

To Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann & Co., Harling, Buschmann & Menzell, Lutgens, Einstmann & Co., Bradley & Co., Wm. Meyerink & Co., Grossmann & Co., Lauts, Wegener & Co., The China Import & Export & Bank Co., and Mr. Ferd. Bornemann.

Dear Sirs,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th inst. calling attention to the sudden changes in the rates of freight made by the Shipping Conference, and the want of adequate notice to exporters, whereby the latter have been put to both inconvenience and loss,

and asking the Committee to take steps to effect an improvement in this condition of affairs.

I am instructed to state, in reply, that while my Committee sympathise with the exporters under the circumstances as advised, they do not feel justified in taking up the question, which is really a matter between shippers and ship-owners. They would, however, suggest a united representation on the subject by the exporters to the Conference setting forth the inconveniences entailed upon them by the lack of sufficient notice of change in arrangements, which cannot fail to receive fair consideration.

—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

Secretary.

MR. WATTS'S CASE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 26th April, 1898.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 26th ult. in which you conveyed to the Chamber the explanation given by the Fuchuen Magistrate of his action in placing an embargo on the coal purchased by Mr. F. W. Watts at Saiwan, I now beg leave to inquire whether any further action has been taken in the matter.

The prolonged delay in furnishing this explanation, and the circumstances (if I am correctly informed) that the Magistrate giving it is not the official who held the post when the embargo was laid on the coal, seem to throw doubt upon the accuracy of the explanation offered. Indeed, it appears extremely probable that the explanation is more or less an excuse, and that the transaction would not have been interfered with had the purchaser been a native.

Considering the systematic obstruction interposed in the past to all foreign trade with the interior, both in imports and exports, by officials for the ultimate gain of their own pockets, and the present efforts that are being made by all Treaty Powers to overcome this opposition to free commerce in the Empire of China, the action of any native officials causing an obstruction to the development of trade calls for the strictest investigation. Unless, therefore, something more satisfactory than the explanation so far advanced by the Fuchuen Magistrate be forthcoming, my Committee will have much pleasure in seconding your efforts towards obtaining redress by referring the whole case to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,

Chairman.

To Byron Brennan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Canton.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), and there were also present the Captain Superintendent of Police (the Hon. F. H. May), the Director of Public Works (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby), the Acting Registrar-General (the Hon. E. W. Brewin), the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Clark) and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon (C. Vivian Ladds), the latter acting as Secretary.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as a correct record.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC LATRINES.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS had given notice of his intention to move:—"That the attention of Government be invited to the representations made by the Sanitary Board in 1895, and that this Board beg that provision be made in the Estimates for 1899 for at least two public latrines in the city, and that votes be taken annually for this service, until the wants of the City in this respect are fully met." Mr. Ormsby observed that in moving this resolution he was not by any means actuated by a desire to forestall the Board in the report they were about to make. He was merely anxious that something should be done to improve the sanitary state of the city as soon as possible. It was often the case that Commissioners' reports were too long delayed and nothing was done. At the present time the estimates for next year were in course of preparation, and votes not

put in now might never be put in. He therefore wished by that resolution to get a specific vote included in next year's estimate, so that a long felt want might to some extent be met. It seemed to him that on former occasions rather too much was asked for. On one occasion a proposal was put before Government, to expend a sum of \$450,000 on latrines. This on the face of it was out of the question. Then the sum of \$15,000 was asked for, and this he presumed was also considered out of the question in the then financial state of the colony. The amount he proposed to ask for would be about \$3,600, and possibly no objection would be made. The subject of nightsoil removal in a city like this was in his opinion one of the most important with which they had to deal. The non-removal of nightsoil for three or four days was in the opinion of many a fruitful cause of disease. In the case of public latrines these accumulations could be guarded against and regular daily removal undertaken. He therefore begged leave to move the resolution which stood in his name.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in seconding, said the importance of public latrines had been frequently urged upon the Government by the Board, and attention had been directed to it himself in his annual reports.

The motion was carried unanimously.

THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

At a meeting of the Sanitary Board held on May 6th it was agreed that a modification of the quarantine regulations might be permitted in respect of the river steamboats in allowing them to proceed direct to their wharves, and that the medical inspection of the passengers should take place at the wharf, the Europeans being permitted to land as soon as they have been examined by the Medical Officer.

The Acting Colonial Secretary was informed of this decision, and in reply he wrote—I am directed to state that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government is of opinion that there are objections to the modification of the Quarantine Regulations in respect of the river steamboats, and is not prepared to adopt it.

THE VASCO DA GAMA CELEBRATION AT MACAO.

At a meeting of the Board held on May 6th it was decided to recommend the Government to prohibit the immigration of Chinese from Macao for a period 14 days from the 9th inst. in consequence of bubonic plague at that place and of the proposed celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco da Gama on the 18th inst.

The suggestion was considered at a meeting of the Executive Council on Monday, May 9th, when the Council could not see its way to adopt the recommendation.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE in a minute attached to the papers dealing with this matter says—I think it ought to have been stated that a majority agreed to the proposal. The Director of Public Works and myself were against it, if I remember rightly. Certainly I was.

APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION.

Mr. W. Hutton Potts, secretary of the Hongkong Dairy Farm Company, Limited, wrote on the 5th inst. stating—"I am instructed to apply for compensation for the five cows slaughtered by order of your Board in February and March last under section 5 of Ordinance 17 of 1887."

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON, on being asked to assess the rate of compensation under the section in question, wrote saying—"I am of opinion that compensation to the amount of \$1,000 should be paid to the Dairy Farm Company."

Mr. N. J. Ede minuted—I think the law regarding compensation requires alteration. It is very unfortunate if a man's cattle get sick, but I do not see why the colony should bear the burden of it.

A short discussion ensued.

The PRESIDENT said the amount of compensation recommended by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon was \$1,000. That meant \$200—or £20—a head.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE moved that the paper be re-circulated with any

precedent attached. He could not remember any similar application or what the Board had done in previous applications. They ought to have a definite policy. They could not pay one man and refuse another.

It was pointed out, however, that the Board had no option in the matter, being bound to give compensation.

It was decided to forward particulars of the matter to the Government.

THE DRAINAGE OF THE COLONY.—RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ACTING SURVEYOR.

The ACTING SURVEYOR (Mr. R. F. Drury) wrote as follows to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board on May 14th—"I have the honour to request that you will lay before the Board the following report on 'The relation of the present state of house drains to the completed sewerage scheme.' I will preface this report by remarking that the present time, when the plague is in the colony (and all hands busy in consequence) may be considered somewhat inopportune, but that I hold that the principle of striking at the root of one of the many evils which is the cause of a series of epidemics justifies the representation and suggestion contained herein being made now. From records in this office I find that there remain some 1,500 of the 7,078 Chinese houses in the city to be drained in connection with the new sewerage system, including all others, about 2,000 houses. On account of this the full benefits that should be derived from the new sewerage scheme of the colony (now completed at a cost of over \$265,500) are rendered to a great extent ineffective for the following reasons:—

"1.—The sewers constructed have been calculated to deal with a given flow of sewage, which flowing at the grades laid down will make the sewers self-cleansing. This flow they do not yet receive; consequently in these instances deposits occur which have to be systematically removed by manual labour at a cost to the Government.

"2.—To a great extent the same state of things obtains as in 1887, viz., these foulest of ill constructed house drains still deliver their sewage in a high state of decomposition into the storm drains (which drains were condemned so far as the conveyance of sewage is concerned in 1887) whence emanate noxious smells and greater evils.

"3.—The drains in question in nearly all instances are in direct connection with the old drains into which they deliver. At night when the house is closed up and the temperature rises, it draws out the poisonous and germ-bearing air from the main drain; hence disease and epidemic, particularly should this drain be situated in a disease-stricken locality. As a means to a remedy I beg to submit the following scheme, which appears to me to be the most prompt and practical method to reach the end to be attained, viz., the early reconstruction of all insanitary house drains in the colony and connection thereof with the new sewerage system.

"(a.) That the Assistant Sanitary Surveyor be allowed to return *in toto* to his regular duties, arrangements being made for the discharge of the duties on which he is at present engaged by some other capable person.

"(b.) That the inspection for defective drains now discontinued through press of work and partial absence of Assistant Sanitary Surveyor be immediately resumed.

"(c.) That the Board appoint a select committee to sit weekly and consider the reports of the Assistant Surveyor and take the necessary action upon such reports, the Board delegating to it full power under section 4 of 11 of 1895 to enforce all the provisions or bye-laws relating to drainage works. Under section 3 of 11 of 1895 such committee may consist of one member of the Board and an officer. I would suggest that Dr. Clark be named in the former capacity and for technical reasons I in the latter.

"(d.) That in order to expedite the work of serving notices on owners to re-drain and effect such other repairs as may be reported necessary Government be asked to sanction the temporary employment by the Board of a clerk at a salary of \$50 a month for this special duty.

"(e.) That the work shall only be executed by contractors who have had the necessary experience and are qualified to do this work (this may be done under section 49 of Ordinance 24 of 1887), a printed list being appended on the

notice calling on owners to re-drain. At present much time is lost in repeated inspections of completed drains which have occasionally to be relaid three and four times, particularly in cases when the work occurs in the villages. On agreement between the Sanitary Surveyor and contractors a schedule of prices will be arrived at, at which rate they will execute the work. This is to ensure against undue advantage being taken by the few contractors on the list over their clients. Any contractor found sub-letting the work will be removed from the list.

"In conclusion I consider that this important branch of the new sewerage work (as the veins to the artery) should be brought to a satisfactory state without further delay, and if systematic proceedings are adopted and enforced I do not see any reason why the whole task should not be completed before the next epidemic season comes round. If I should have proposed somewhat drastic measures I can only plead the urgency of the case, and that they are the only means to execute the work in the time required. I would make reference to the *Government Gazette* of September 27th, 1890, in which are contained reports by Messrs. Chadwick, Price, and Cooper, making strong representations on the subject of insanitary house drains:—Mr. Chadwick on page 966, sec. 17, and on page 980, sec. 58; Mr. Price on page 932, sections 13, 14, and 15; Mr. Cooper on page 943 under heading "House drains." I sincerely trust that the Board will see their way to giving me a strong hand in this matter."

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH minuted—The expedition of the re-drainage of the city is undoubtedly most desirable, and I think that the appointment of a select committee would greatly facilitate the service of the necessary legal notices. I am afraid Mr. Bryan cannot be spared from plague duty for a few weeks.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE minuted—I am of opinion that this work is too urgent to be delayed. Mr. Bryan should be allowed to return to his duties. We might get an officer of the Royal Engineers to volunteer for this work perhaps.

On the motion of the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, seconded by the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, the suggestion of the Acting Surveyor with regard to the appointment of a select committee was adopted.

A TAINTED WELL AT HOK-UN.

Mr. Frank Browne, Acting Government Analyst, reported with regard to a sample of water delivered to him for analysis from a well situated at Hok-un:—"I hereby certify that this water is so tainted with impurities as to be unfit for potable purposes and likely to prove injurious to health."

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, the ACTING-REGISTRAR-GENERAL, and the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE minuted in favour of the closing of the well.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, it was decided that a notice should be issued as to the closing of the well.

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN IN CENTRAL MARKET.

The night watchman at Central Market having resigned, the COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON suggested the temporary abolition of the post to see if they could get on as well without a watchman.

On the motion of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, seconded by the ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL, the suggestion was adopted.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended April 30th showed the death rate to be 40 per thousand, against 36.7 for the previous week and 14.1 for the corresponding week last year. The statistics for the week ended May 7th showed a death rate of 44.1, against 19.6 for the corresponding week last year.

THE PLAGUE AT KOWLOON.—DR. CLARK AND AN ANONYMOUS LETTER-WRITER.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said he did not know whether the members of that Board attached much importance to anonymous letters, but there was an anonymous letter in one of the evening papers the previous day which contained such an amount of circumstantial detail as to apparently warrant credence

being attached to it. As a matter of fact the letter teemed with inaccuracies and false statements, and he should like to take that opportunity to give the true facts of the case, because although to the intelligent public such letters over a *nom de plume* did not carry much weight, there were a large number of half-educated people who even yet believed that editors of newspapers verified every statement contained in such a letter before they inserted it, which he need hardly state was not the case. Editors invariably disavowed responsibility in regard to statements contained in their papers. As the Board was doing its best to deal with the epidemic of plague it might be as well to give the true facts of the case. The writer first of all stated that he wrote to him on the 13th inst. at noon. He had the letter there, and it was dated the 14th inst., and it reached him on the 14th inst., somewhere between one and two o'clock. That was mis-statement number one. It made a serious difference because the writer stated there was a lapse of a considerable number of hours, and this correction reduced the number by 24. The name of this gentleman was Mr. George Williams, of 8, McDonald road. He said he wrote him on the 13th and that he got an immediate reply and that when he wrote on the 14th he got an immediate reply. Mr. Williams suggested that there were some cases of plague in this particular house, though on a different floor. That was true, and there had been a death from plague next door. Mr. Williams stated that no sanitary inspector had been near the place, and suggested that the women suffering from plague were not taken away until 9.30 p.m. on the 15th inst.—that there was a lapse of 48 hours. He said he wrote him on the 13th and that the patients were not removed until the evening of the 15th. As a matter of fact, the letter was written to him on the 14th, and the patients were admitted into Tung Wa Hospital about 9.30 p.m. the same day. It must be remembered that the patients had to be brought across the water, and though there was a lapse of a few hours those few hours were to his mind unavoidable. With regard to the statement that no sanitary inspector had been near the place, he received a report from the Inspector stating that the patients were removed on the 14th and that on the 15th the house was disinfected. He simply wished to mention this to show what utter drivel one saw written over *noms de plumes* in papers. He hoped the press would take some note of the matter, so as to assure the public that the officers of the Sanitary Board were not neglecting their duties in the gross way in which this letter suggested they were. (Hear, hear.)

The proceedings then terminated.

THE PLAGUE.

The number of plague cases reported last week was 179 and the deaths 157.

The daily returns for the present week are as follows:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
May 15...	18	19
" 16...	21	15
" 17...	17	20
" 18...	22	16
" 19...	18	17

THE CAINE ROAD MURDER.

OZORIO AGAIN BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.

THE EVIDENCE OF MISS PORTARIO.

A PAINFUL SCENE.

At the Magistracy on Saturday afternoon, 14th May, Joan da Matta Ozorio, clerk, was charged on remand that he did on the 9th of May "feloniously and of malice aforethought kill and murder one Francisco Xavier de Jesus." There was a large attendance of the Portuguese residents in court, and the Portuguese Consul-General (Mr. A. G. Romano) occupied a seat on the bench. Mr. Grist (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for defendant. The witnesses who gave evidence were Miss Portario (who was engaged to be married to defendant), deceased's widow, and deceased's sister, all of whom were naturally much affected. When Miss Portario came forward defendant began to weep violently, and when asked to desist

exclaimed, "Take my life if you want. I don't want to live any more!"

DEFENDANT JEALOUS OF MR. JESUS.

Glaforo Portario said—I was living at 2, West Terrace, Caine road on the night of the ninth inst., with deceased, who was my cousin, and his wife. I know defendant. I was engaged to be married to him. On Monday night defendant came to see me at West Terrace at half-past five. We had had a quarrel that day. Defendant blamed Mr. Jesus. He was jealous of him, insinuating that Mr. Jesus paid attentions to me. We were to be married on the 28th of this month. So far as I am aware defendant had never spoken to Mr. Jesus on the subject of his paying attentions to me. I never heard defendant threaten Mr. Jesus, but he has threatened me. He has threatened to kill me but only in a joke. When defendant came at half-past five I was in my room downstairs sewing. He asked me to stop sewing. When I changed my place I saw a packet wrapped in paper lying on my bed. I asked what it was and he opened it, and I saw then that it was a revolver. I wanted to take it from him, but he would not give it to me. I struggled with him, trying to get it, but I could not succeed. We struggled until we got out on to the verandah. Then we sat down on a chair, and were there when my cousin Miss Jesus came in. I cannot remember what my cousin said. Defendant said to me that if I would declare the whole truth he would forgive me, and I replied "In God in heaven's truth I never had anything to do with anyone, but am in love with you." Just then almost the whole of the family came out on to the verandah. My aunt—the mother of Mr. Jesus—came out. My aunt is 75 years of age. I do not remember what defendant said to her. Afterwards my aunt went away. Defendant wanted me to go with him. He did not want me to remain at West Terrace. I refused to go and we were quarrelling when Mr. Jesus came and went right into the house. Defendant saw him, but took no notice of him. Soon afterwards Mr. Jesus came out and addressing defendant asked, "What is all this, Joan?" I don't know what happened after that, except that I was pulling defendant away and I heard more than one shot. I don't think there was any struggle between defendant and Mr. Jesus. Defendant did not threaten Mr. Jesus before he fired. When my aunt came on to the verandah defendant pushed her but she did not fall down. She could not do so, as there were two boxes where she was standing. When defendant came into the house he said to me "Stop sewing, stop sewing." I was sewing for the wedding, and I suppose he meant that the wedding would not take place. In reply I said, "Once you stop me I will not start again."

Up to when were you and defendant on good terms?—Up to some time in March. We did not commence to quarrel exactly, about Mr. Jesus.

Did defendant say it was Mr. Jesus he was jealous of?—He did not say so, but he had an idea that Mr. Jesus was paying me attentions. We had a few words on the same subject almost daily.

Did he ever threaten anyone?—He said if he should discover who it was he would kill them.

Was Xavier on the verandah? He may have been there, but I don't remember.

When you were struggling with defendant after the shooting was someone else struggling with him?—Yes, but I was under the impression it was Mr. Jesus.

You are not certain you saw Mr. Xavier on the verandah at all?—When we were quarrelling I think I remember seeing him at the door.

Mr. Grist—I have no questions to ask witness.

MISS JESUS IN THE WITNESS BOX.

Marie Teresa de Jesus said—Deceased was my brother and I lived at No. 2, West Terrace, with him and his wife. He had no children. The previous witness is my cousin. I was at home on the afternoon of the ninth instant, reaching home at about half-past five. I went to my room on the ground floor and I heard defendant, who was in my cousin's room, crying. I took no notice of it at the time. They have been quarrelling since March, and he frequently cried. At about a quarter past six I heard someone running in the next room. It was

then dinner-time, and I went into the dining room. Glaforo was not there and I called her. Glaforo answered me from the verandah, saying that she had no appetite and did not want any dinner. After dinner I went to the back verandah, and on my return to the dining room my mother was assisted into the room by the amah and one of my nieces. At about seven o'clock Xavier came into the house, and I told him that my mother had been pushed down by defendant, and he went out in the direction of the verandah. A few moments afterwards, as I was on the staircase, I saw my brother's wife coming into the house, followed by her husband, by the front door. One of my nieces called out "Uncle, grandmother has been thrown down by Joanico." I then went towards my room and just then I heard shots fired in the verandah. When I heard the shots I was frightened and I caught hold of my mother and we ran out at the back into the lane calling out for help, thinking Glaforo was probably murdered. When I came into the house again I found it full of people and saw the dead body of my brother on the bed. Mr. Grist had no questions to ask.

THE WIDOW'S EVIDENCE—DEFENDANT AND DECEASED ALWAYS FRIENDS.

Marie Josepha Ozorio de Jesus said—I am the widow of the deceased, who was murdered on the night of the ninth instant about a quarter-past seven. I and my husband reached home a short time before. As we entered the house I saw Mr. Ozorio and Glaforo on the verandah. I did not notice anyone else as it was dark. As we entered the house my husband's youngest niece, who was weeping, called out, "Uncle, uncle, Joanico has beaten Glaforo and has thrown grandmother on the floor." My husband, who was just inside the door when he heard this, turned towards the verandah and going towards defendant asked, "What is all this?" I heard nothing else but I heard shots and saw the flash of a fire-arm. My husband then ran past me in the hall. I ran after him. He tried to go up the stairs, but when he had got up three steps at one bound his strength gave way. I assisted him to a chair at the foot of the stairs, his head resting on my arms. I asked him what had happened and he replied in a very weak voice, "Joan da Matta has shot me." As I was holding him I called out to the amah to bring some water and he shook his head three times and died on my arm. Dr. Jordan, Dr. Paulun, and some other doctors arrived soon afterwards, and saw the body, which had been removed to the bedroom.

Have you ever known your husband to quarrel with defendant?—No; they were always friends.

Your husband was not threatening or angry when he went on to the verandah?—No; he merely asked "What is this Joanico?" I cannot say that he said it in a threatening tone of voice.

Mr. Grist—I have no questions to ask.

The proceedings were then adjourned.

OZORIO'S STATEMENT.—A FURTHER ADJOURNMENT.

Ozorio was again brought before Commander Hastings on Wednesday, the 18th May. Mr. Romano (the Portuguese Consul-General) occupied a seat on the bench. The coat and shirt of deceased were produced. The shirt was covered with blood stains.

Dr. Jordan said—On the night of the ninth instant I was called to No. 2, West Terrace, at about seven o'clock, having been informed that the man who resided there had been shot. I went upstairs and found deceased lying on a bed with blood stains on his shirt. I examined the body and found that life was extinct. I then examined the wounds. I found four distinct wounds of entry on the body of deceased. Two of them were close to the right breast, the third one was just above the region of the liver, and the fourth was apparently directly over the stomach. I concluded that deceased had died from internal hemorrhage. I was then shown a revolver which defendant was supposed to have used. I knew deceased by sight from meeting him at the shop of Cottam and Company, where he was employed. The wounds could have been caused by a revolver similar to the one produced.

From an examination of the clothes of deceased I concluded that the shots were fired at close quarters. The clothes were charred in places.

E. M. Hazeland, of the Public Works Department, said—I produce ground floor plans of No. 2, West Terrace. They are correct.

Chang Tze said—I am amah in the employ of the mother of deceased at No. 2, West Terrace. Between six and seven o'clock on the evening of the ninth inst., Miss. Glaflira and defendant were on the verandah quarrelling. Whilst quarrelling they were sitting down. They afterwards stood up and fought. Then Miss Glaflira wept loudly and thus drew the attention of a little girl, who informed the old lady, who was in the dining room, of what had occurred. My mistress went on to the verandah, I followed her. My mistress went up to defendant and spoke to him in Portuguese. I then saw defendant push her and she fell down on to a box which was lying in the verandah. I helped her up and led her into the dining room.

Inspector Moffat said—On the 9th inst., about 7.45 p.m., from information received I went to No. 2, West Terrace. On going upstairs I saw the body of deceased lying on the bed. I saw Dr. Jordan there, and received the revolver produced from him. It has five chambers, each of which contained an exploded cartridge apparently recently fired. I removed the body to the public mortuary. I took the shirt and coat produced off deceased and took possession of them. On the following day I saw the body identified by deceased's widow and Mr. Xavier. I subsequently saw the post-mortem examination. I saw the two bullets produced extracted. The right sleeve of the shirt and the right sleeve of the coat were charred. The front of the shirt was blood stained and charred.

P. C. Martin Faherty said—About 7.50 p.m. on the ninth inst. I went to No. 2, West Terrace, and searched for the fifth bullet supposed to have been fired from the revolver produced. I found the bullet produced on the verandah on the ground floor. I picked it up about four feet from the western end of the verandah, I did not see any splash on the wall.

Francisco Luiz Perriere, of 57, Peel street, said—On the evening of the ninth inst., towards midnight, I went to the charge room at the Central Police Station at the request of Inspector Hanson to act as interpreter. Defendant was in the room. After being duly cautioned he was charged with murder, and he voluntarily made the following statement, which was read over to him twice and signed by him after he had corrected it: "I went there not with the intention to kill, but to ask my fiancée who was the man that had betrayed me. As it was the firearm was inside the box and the bullets were packed as they came from the shop. My fiancée opened the bundle (bullets) and brought the firearm to the desk and tried to load it, and I unloaded it afterwards. After some other questions I loaded the firearm to frighten her. Before he came in I prayed her to come with me and live in the house of my sister, who came from Macao to-day. After five minutes the man who came into the house came out after me. Then it excited me to discharge the firearm on to him."

Inspector Hanson—I want you to again adjourn until we get the translations of certain documents. There has been some difficulty in getting proper translations. Some translations were made and they were submitted to the Consul; some alterations were made and they must be re-written. They are in the rough, and are not in a fit state to put in on this occasion.

The hearing was adjourned until Wednesday at noon.

The *Straits Times* of the 6th May says:—A correspondent calls attention to the torturing of Kling women, for religious purposes, in the streets of Singapore. Yesterday, a number of Kling women marched from the temple in Serangoon Road to the temple in Tank Road, with lances thrust through their tongues, lips, and cheeks, the tongues being thrust out. Men accompanied them to throw water in their faces. One woman was so exhausted that a bucket of water had to be thrown over her before she could proceed. Surely, the police have only to bestir themselves to exclude such barbarities from the public streets.

THE BANK NOTE FORGERY.

Heinrich Grosse and George Schultz, Germans, were brought before Mr. Wolferstan at Singapore on the 5th May and charged with having on the 27th April used as genuine certain forged documents, namely, twenty six bank-notes purporting to be of the value of fifty dollars each, and fifty notes purporting to be of the value of twenty-five dollars each, all on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank; also with having in their possession a certain instrument for making an impression, namely, a numbering machine for the purpose of committing forgery.

Mr. Cuscaden said he was afraid he could not get through with the case until some important document were translated.

The magistrate said every effort out to be made to get the case ready for the Assizes.

Keena Meerah Hussain said he was a money changer. On the 27th of April he went on board the German steamer *Preussen* at Borneo Wharf. He met H. Grosse, but did not see G. Schultz. Grosse wanted to purchase two hundred and thirty-eight sovereigns at ten dollars eighty cents each and would pay for them in Hongkong bank notes. Witness went to Kling Street and purchased two hundred and twenty-four sovereigns. On his way back to the wharf he met H. Grosse; witness got into defendant's gharry and drove towards Singapore. In the gharry, the defendant put his hand into his pocket and pulled out a roll of fifty dollar notes of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. There were twenty six notes in the roll. He also handed over fifty notes of twenty-five dollars each. The whole value was two thousand five hundred and twenty dollars. Witness gave two hundred sovereigns and took the notes. The balance was not paid. Witness looked at the notes and found that the Chinese characters for the name of the bank were smaller than is the rule. He became suspicious and told the defendant that witness would pay the balance of thirty-six sovereigns, if defendant followed him to Mahomed Tamby's shop in Kling Street. They went there, and witness sent the roll of fifty dollar notes to the bank. One Mahomed Yusof took the roll. Seeing that Yusof did not return, witness gave the other roll to Mahomed Tamby to take to the bank. While they were away, witness gave the balance of thirty-six sovereigns to the defendant. Mahomed Yusof returned from the bank and said the notes were bad. Witness and defendants were called to the bank. Witness told defendant that the notes were bad and demanded back his gold. This was returned, and they went to the bank. The police were sent for, and the prisoners were removed in custody.

By the court—The conversation with the defendant was carried on in English.

Mahomed Yusof, an assistant to Mahomed Tamby corroborated.

Mahomed Tamby, a trader in Kling Street, said that Keena Meerah Hussain came to him, on the 27th April, and bought two hundred and twenty-four sovereigns. A half-an-hour later, he returned in company with H. Grosse, and handed witness two rolls of notes to count. They were all quite new. Witness suggested that it would be well to send the notes to the bank for examination. The fifty-dollar notes were sent, and witness afterwards followed with the roll of twenty-five dollar notes. Witness took all the notes to the cashier who took them to the manager. He then learned that the notes were bad. He was asked how he came by them, and he explained who brought them. Keena Meerah Hussain and H. Grosse were sent for.

Mr. L. Pike, cashier of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, said he was on duty at the bank on the forenoon of the 27th of April. Two notes of fifty and four of twenty-five dollars were handed to him. He suspected the genuineness of the notes, examined them carefully, and came to the conclusion that they were forgeries. Mahomed Yusof presented the notes and when asked if he had any more, said he had, and gave two rolls to him. He was told the notes had been obtained from a European gentleman on board the German mail. He advised the witness not to lose sight of this gentleman. Defendant was sent for and came. Defendant was taken to the Manager and

volunteered the statement that he had purchased the notes at Colombo, at the rate of 1s. 8d. and 1s. 9d. a dollar, and, thinking he would make a good profit, took a large quantity. Witness said, there were several ways by which he would know the notes were forgeries. (1) The Chief Accountant's signature was lithographed; it should be written. (2) The year was left out. (3) The written value of the note was indistinct. (4) There was no water mark. There were other small differences between these notes and genuine ones. Inspector Bourne went with H. Grosse to the German mail, and returned with a large box and a smaller tin one, which were taken to the police station. Sixteen ten dollar notes were put in, which witness declared to be forgeries, another roll of fifty and twenty-five dollar notes were put in and they were likewise declared forgeries. These two rolls were found in the box belonging to G. Schultz. Other notes were shown to witness with the same result.

Mr. W. Adams Oram, Manager at Singapore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, said he remembered the 27th of April. On that day, Mr. Pike brought some notes to him. Two rolls were put in and recognised by the witness. They were forgeries. He was talking to the money changer when H. Grosse was shown into his office, and explained how he came to get possession of the notes. Witness had received a letter from the bank at Hongkong, stating that the notes were not those issued by the bank.

Mr. G. H. B. Matthews, Acting Government Analyst, said he received certain notes produced from Inspector Bourne. He examined them. The paper was not the same as that used for the notes of the bank. The forged notes were smaller. The quality of the paper was about the same as that generally used for notes. There were other discrepancies. The Chinese lettering on the forgery was scarcely visible, while the genuine note showed this distinctly. The dollar figures were smaller than they should be. The cross line in the figure 5 was straight in the genuine note, in the forgery it curved at the end. The twenty-five dollar notes also showed discrepancies. A tin box containing various chemicals was handed to witness. There were in it seven bottles containing pure glycerine, tincture of cantharides, lubricating oil, petroleum benzine, and polish, a tin of polishing paste, a tin of yellow enamel, a box of paints, and also an envelope containing two small packages of Chinese rhubarb and bioxalide of potash; the latter was used for removing signatures. There was also a water-proof bag with four bottles, one of gum, one of drops, another that had contained corrosive sublimate, and the last contained indelible ink, also a piece of Indian ink which could be used for marking the Chinese lettering on the back of the notes.

Inspector Bourne said that on the 27th of April, he went to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and saw the Manager, Mr. Pike, and the defendant, H. Grosse. He was shown two rolls of notes which were said to be forgeries. The defendant told witness he was the principal of a firm of commission agents at Cologne, and that he had bought the notes, some three thousand eight hundred dollars worth, at Port Said and Colombo. He was on his way to China to buy silk. The balance of the notes would be found on board the steamer *Preussen*. If the notes were forgeries, he had been duped. He had circulated a few among the passengers on board. Witness afterwards got a note of twenty-five and two of ten dollars each from a money changer. The defendant was taken to the police office, and on being searched, a revolver loaded in seven chambers was found on him, also seventeen notes of fifty dollars, three of twenty-five and eight of ten, amounting to one thousand and five dollars. He had also six gold coins, English and German, a dollar, six rupees, two shillings, three pence in silver, and a Japanese twenty cent piece. The gold was given to some passengers on board the steamer, who had received forged notes from the defendant. There was also a letter addressed to the defendant's wife. Witness then got permission from the German Consul to search the steamer. Cabin No. 103 was pointed out as that occupied by H. Grosse. He learned later from H. Grosse that G. Schultz shared

the cabin with him. He found a tin box, and in it a large quantity of notes of various denominations. They were new. A large sum of money in gold, silver, and Bank of England notes was in the box, and also some jewellery. Another box was found which H. Grosse said might belong to Schultz. This man denied ownership, and said he did not know how the box came to be in the cabin. A bunch of keys was found on the person of Schultz, but none of them fitted the lock. Witness had a key which he had taken from Grosse and this fitted the lock. In the box were packages of notes of twenty-five, twenty, and ten dollars. Witness took possession of the things and formally arrested the two men. Witness then learned that the defendants had occupied another cabin. In it, he found a large trunk bearing the initials of Schultz. Forged notes were found in the cabin and in the trunk. There was also a loaded revolver. He brought the luggage and the prisoners ashore, and took them to the detective station. The contents of the boxes were counted. In Grosse's box was found a numbering machine. The numbers corresponded in size and form with those stamped on the notes. A similar machine was found in Schultz's box. They were inked ready for stamping. A small box containing lithographers' instruments were also discovered; also a case of mathematical instruments, and a sharpening stone. A number of documents (produced) was found in Grosse's box. These were submitted to the German Consul, who selected those that seemed important, and had a bearing on the case. Some bills were produced showing that the defendants had lived together at different hotels in Colombo. Other documents in German were put in. Witness, continuing, said that on the following morning he received a telephone message from Borneo Wharf. He went on board the *Preussen* and received notes valued at over six thousand dollars. The total value of the notes found amounted to two hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars.

Mr. Albin Elper, Secretary to the German Consulate, said one of the documents put in was a letter from Mr. Ludor Ahn to H. Grosse in London, stating that some notes of ten dollars value were sent for inspection and approval. There were four Hongkong bank-notes, three Australian banknotes, and two Netherlands bank notes. The letter was dated from Bremerhaven in November, 1897. The writer said he had no large notes. Another paper purported to be an agreement between Mrs. Gritters and G. Schultz and countersigned by H. Grosse that Schultz should work as a lithographer and do his best in the interests of his employer; Mrs. Gritters was his mother-in-law.

Mr. Pike recalled, said that the packets of notes found on board the *Preussen* were forgeries.

The prisoners were committed for trial.—*Straits Times*.

SENTENCE ON THE PRISONERS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SINGAPORE, 17th May.

In the case of the Bank Note forgeries Grosse has been sentenced to ten years' penal servitude and Schultz to eight years.

AN UNLICENSED DISTILLERY UNEARTHED.**EXTENSIVE SEIZURE OF SAMSHU.**

At the Magistracy on 16th May before Commander Hastings, Chan Kat and Chan Kun, accountants, were charged with unlawfully distilling intoxicating liquors, namely, Chinese spirits, without a license. Mr. Gedge appeared for the defence.

Inspector Moffat said that at two o'clock on the afternoon of the 14th inst, by virtue of a warrant of which he was in possession, he entered the house No. 9, Sai On lane, and seized 165 jars of Chinese spirits, some of which were on the ground floor, some in a cockloft and some on the first floor. He also seized six large earthenware jars, capable of holding 50 or 60 gollons each, on the ground floor. They were almost full of Chinese spirits. One of the jars contained spirit which was quite warm. He found six stills at the back of

the ground floor, three of which were working. From each of the latter he took a jar of samshu. He also seized 52 bags of sugar, 122 earthenware jars of sugar, and also a large quantity of rice and empty jars, the latter being so numerous that he did not count them. On the first floor were between 20 and 30 large jars of vinegar. He found defendants in the accountants' room on the first floor upstairs. Downstairs were about a dozen men working at the stills. When he entered the house he sent up for the accountants and defendants came downstairs and accompanied him in his inspection of the premises. He had a body of police with him.

The further hearing was adjourned until this afternoon to allow of the subpoenaing of Mr. Frank Browne, Acting Government Analyst. Defendants were allowed out on bail, a security of \$300 being found for each of them.

At the Magistracy on 17th May before Commander Hastings Chau Kat and Chau Kun, accountants, were charged on remand with unlawfully distilling intoxicating liquors, to-wit, Chinese spirits, without a license on the 14th inst. at 9, Sai On lane. They pleaded guilty and were each fined \$300. All the apparatus, &c., has been confiscated.

ADMISSION OF A SOLICITOR.

On Saturday morning, 14th May, Mr. Frank Barrington Deacon, who has served his articles with Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, solicitors, was admitted as a solicitor at the Supreme Court by Sir John Carrington, Chief Justice.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. M. Goodman) said this was an application under section 6 of Ordinance 3 of 1871 asking the Court to approve, admit, and enroll as an attorney and proctor Mr. Frank Barrington Deacon. The affidavit required by section 26 of the Ordinance had been filed, and he was informed by the Registrar that the necessary papers were all in order. Mr. Frank Barrington Deacon had served his articles with Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, of this place. He was duly examined in the middle of May, and had complied with all the requirements to enable that application to be made. It gave him very great pleasure to say, as one of the examiners, that Mr. Deacon passed a very creditable examination.

Sir John Carrington—Let Mr. Frank Barrington Deacon be approved, admitted, and enrolled as an attorney and proctor. I have very great pleasure in making the order and I wish him every success.

A. S. WATSON AND CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the General Managers for the year ending the 31st December, 1897, for presentation to the shareholders at the thirteenth annual ordinary general meeting of the Company (since its registration) to be held at the Hongkong Dispensary on Saturday, the 28th May, at twelve o'clock, noon:—To the shareholders of A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Mr. John David Humphreys, which occurred at Folkestone, England, on the 8th November last. Mr. Humphreys was General Manager of the Company from its formation in 1885 up till the time of his death, when in accordance with the special resolution duly passed on the 11th December, 1895, and confirmed on the 28th December, 1895, we became the General Managers of the Company.

We now beg to lay before you a statement of the Company's business, with a Balance Sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1897.

The net profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including General Management, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and with the addition of \$12,159.15 brought forward from last year, amount to... \$95,575.15

From this there has been written off for Depreciation of Furniture, Fittings, Utensils of Trade, Machinery and Building Improvements... \$5,280.82

And from the value of the property known as Re-

maining Portion Inland Lot No. 19 and the Buildings thereon ... 21,055.32
\$26,336.14

Leaving an available balance of ... \$69,239.01
We paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent. in November last absorbing \$30,000.00
And we now propose to pay a further dividend of 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent. for the year) which will absorb ... 30,000.00
To carry forward to 1898 account ... 9,239.01

\$69,239.01
The considerable increase in the amount shown in the present balance sheet under the heading of stocks-in-trade and the heavier liabilities are consequent on important extensions made during the year under review in the Company's business operations in Amoy and Hongkong.

The respective values of the two properties Remaining Portion Inland Lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon and inland lot No. 16 and the buildings thereon (better known as the building formerly occupied by the Hongkong Club) have been adjusted by reducing the book value of the former to the extent of \$20,000 and increasing that of the latter by the same amount.

Peak Rural Building Lot No. 80 and the building thereon, not being further required for the Company's business, was sold in December last at a profit of \$2,000 above its book value.

The Company's accounts in London have been audited by Messrs. Hopps, Banhart and Warrington, Chartered Accountants, and those at the head office by Mr. S. G. Bird.

The business of the Company continues to be of an expanding and satisfactory character.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1898.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1897.	
LIABILITIES.	
	\$ c.
Capital account	600,000.00
Local and general liabilities in the East	\$60,556.47
Local and general liabilities in London	48,523.36
Mortgage on inland lot No. 16 and the buildings thereon	84,000.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank loan account	125,000.00
Bills payable, Hongkong, Manila, and London	121,200.48
Permanent reserve fund	100,000.00
Reserve fund to meet contingencies, or for the equalization of dividends	25,000.00
Unclaimed dividends	125,000.00
Security deposits from staff	3,877.00
Profit and loss, forward from 1896	12,159.15
Profit and loss, remaining balance 1897 after writing off \$26,336.14 as per profit & loss account	57,079.86
Less interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November, 1897	\$3,000.00
Less amount unclaimed	4,695.51
	25,391.50
	43,848.51
	\$1,224,234.82

ASSETS.	
	\$ c.
Total stocks in trade	676,339.59
Building improvements and leaseholds	4,579.93
Good debts due from customers	126,748.23
Suspense account	2,056.56
Cash in hand	\$10,400.04
Cash at bankers	10,620.19
	30,020.23
Bills receivable	5,720.35
Fire insurance premia unexpired	3,176.53
Good debts due from sundry debtors in London and Hongkong	8,699.72
Branch adjustment account, 1897	11,260.62
Investments in public companies—	
North China Insurance Co., Limited	
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Limited	4,243.57
La Constancia Cigar Factory, Manila	
Section A of inland lot No. 17 and the buildings thereon	\$64,389.49
Remaining portion inland lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon	115,000.00
Kowloon inland lots Nos. 549, 550, and 551	23,000.00

Inland lot No. 16 and the building thereon 149,000.00 | 351,389.49 | \$1,224,234.82 |

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. \$ c.
To depreciation account 5,280.82 | | || To written off from value remaining portion inland lot No. 19 and buildings thereon | 21,055.32 | 26,336.14 | 69,239.01 |
| To balance | | | \$95,575.15 |

Cr. CONTRA. \$ c.
By balance forward from 1896 12,159.15 | | || By net profits in Hongkong, China, Manila, and London for 1897 | 83,416.00 | | \$95,575.15 |

NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, have received the following reports from their mining manager:—
Mount Macdonald,
15th April, 1898.

I have the honour to report on the above Company's Mines as follows:—

Queen Mine.—Main shaft, since resuming sinking 11 feet have been sunk; total from surface 361 feet. Hitches for bearers to carry frame set have been cut. This set together with chamber set will be put in position and timber put in to connect with timber above the 350 feet level. This will be completed in a day or two and sinking will be resumed. Ground in bottom of shaft softer than any met with for a considerable distance.

Balmoral Mine.—Tribute let to Peel and party on advantageous terms. In addition to royalty on gross yield, the Company retain half interest on the whole. Have inquiries for other portions of ground and hope to let them shortly.

Advantage was taken of the Easter holidays to clean out and test boiler at Queen Mine in accordance with mining regulations. Everything in good order.

Mount Macdonald,
27th April, 1898.

I have the honour to report on the above Company's mines as follows:—

Queen Mine.—Main shaft.—Frame set in shaft, also chamber set at 350 feet level put in also completed timbering of shaft to this level. Sunk an additional 5 feet, total 367 feet.

Balmoral Mine.—Peel and Brown are working on a small vein; the country is very hard, but ore stone is of good quality and they anticipate a profitable return. Another party are prospecting on surface, so far without any result.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following reports from their mining manager:—

Mount Macdonald,
15th April, 1898.

Since last report, work at the mines has been going on in a satisfactory manner.

Eureka Mine.—Main shaft.—Reef at the 300 feet level varies from 6 to 8 feet in width and although not rich is of most promising appearance and there is every reason to expect that it will improve in quality. Winze below 200 feet level sunk a total of 42 feet; reef 6 to 7 feet; ore of average grade. Will start rise from the 300 feet level to connect with winze as soon as possible. Stopes above the 200 feet and 150 feet levels looking same as last reported; no change to report in regard to quantity or quality of ore. Advantage was taken of the usual Easter holidays to effect a few repairs to winding plant and also to fill up the stopes above the 200 feet level.

Eureka B Shaft.—Good progress is being made by the two men employed in this shaft, the ground being favourable for sinking; total depth 41 feet.

Olivers Battery.—Since last reporting 396 tons have been crushed for a yield of 123 ozs. 4 dwts. retorted gold. This, though poor, is a

considerable improvement on previous returns. A partial washing off will take place to-morrow, when we trust to have a still further improvement. Olivers Battery.—As anticipated in my last report, no further trouble has been met with; it is running splendidly.

Work in connection with cutting of bye washes and repairs to dams for the reception of sand and slimes from the Battery will soon be completed. At present everything in connection with the mine, crushing, and winding plant are in good order.

Mount Macdonald,
27th April, 1898.

I have the honour to report on the above Mines as follows:—

Eureka Main Shaft.—300 feet level, drive north extended a total of 26 feet; reef 10 feet wide showing gold occasionally. South drive extended to 17 feet; reef feet 5 wide; will start rise from this level to connect with winze next Monday. 200 feet level.—Winze sunk a further distance of 10 feet, total from level 52 feet; reef 5½ feet wide, of average grade. No driving has been done at this level since last report; width of reef in stopes above this level 5 to 8 feet; ore of average grade. 150 feet level.—Work at this level since last report confined to timbering main drives and stoping; reef from 2½ to 4 feet wide of payable stone.

B shaft.—No work has been done since last report.

Olivers Battery.—Cleaned up on the 16th inst., 6 days run, 170 tons for 57 ounces 3 dwts. retorted gold. Saturday, 23rd instant, cleaned copper plates only for 105 ozs. amalgam, being the best return from that source ever obtained by us. The general washing up will take place on Saturday, the 30th instant.

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the manager at the mines by the steamer *Airlie*:—

Mount Macdonald,
18th April, 1898.

Very good and fast work has been done in all our mines since my last report of the 1st inst.

The Great Eastern Main Shaft has now reached the depth of 175 feet, and, after the sinking of a well, we shall start driving for the main reef, as well as for Clarke's reef west. This shaft has been put down very fast indeed.

Zulu Main Shaft.—The contractors have put in 6 more feet, making the total depth now 113 feet. They had to timber, and a floor they cut necessitated a few days' bailing through an inrush of water, so that they had practically only one week's sinking. The ground in the bottom of the shaft is soft, so that work should proceed fast here. The water, which occurs in all shafts, is only surface water, as we are a long way above the river, and with depth it will disappear altogether.

Arise and Shine Shaft.—We are now a few feet under the old workings, and shall cut for the reef in a few days. We are down, respectively have cleared out down to 64 feet, so that in cutting for the reef we run no risk of any of the old works falling down upon us. If only half the reports about this shaft of gold are true we shall strike a very good reef here.

Bank of England.—The depth of the old workings was 25 feet, which were cleared out by Saturday last, and to our great delight we found the reef to be 3 feet wide, whilst it seems to widen as we are going deeper. The next few feet will prove it. The stone is highly mineralized, and the ore when broken from the reef shows gold visible to the eye. This claim has always been looked upon as a very good one, in fact the whole line of reef, of which this fine claim forms a part, is rich, but we did not hope to find so large a lode. We shall draw a large supply of ore from this shaft, and shall open out as soon as we are down 100 feet. As you see, we are successful everywhere and all our statements are being borne out to the letter.

Caledonian Main Shaft.—Notwithstanding the water, our men have put it down 14 feet, making a total depth of 131 feet, a splendid result since the men were able to go on again with the sinking. The water is getting also less, and we only regret that we cannot and

could not make use of all this shaft water for dam purposes; it would have filled a good sized one.

Dam.—This is proceeding, and will be a very large one. The old bed is much deeper, and the contractors have already scooped out more than 4,000 cubic yards and yet it is still half full. This is of course a pleasant surprise to us, for it means that we are getting a watershed sufficient for very large plant. The weather is favouring us also in our work, as it keeps very dry, and we shall have this dam complete in time for the winter rains.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

FAVOURABLE PROSPECTS.

The Jelevu Mining and Trading Co., Limited, communicate to the Singapore papers as follows:—

In the report, dated 21st April, speaking of the Rin lode, Jelevu, the directors said: "The general indications of the lode continue favourable," and a strong hope was then expressed of "the prospects of successful lode-mining."

Since then, the Board have received from the lode manager certain telegrams, which relate to cross-cuts ordered to be made at a depth of 110 feet in the main shaft. It may be explained that the intention of these cross cuts was partly to get information to put before the shareholders, at the general meeting to be held on 21st May, but—since the information available seems to be so important—it is thought better to communicate it at once. The following are the telegrams:—

(No. 1.—4th May.)

Struck lode, at 110 feet, one foot thick—not through. Payable.

(No. 2.—5th May.)

Lode 2 feet thick—not through.

(No. 3.—5th May.)

Lode 3 feet thick, payable, not yet through.

(No. 4.—6th May.)

Lode 4 feet thick—payable, all through. The sinking of the shaft to a greater depth has been re-started.

The lode manager expects that, with deeper sinking, there may be still better results as the lode has been getting thicker all the way down, and he expresses the assurance that "no further fear need be felt as to the permanency" of the lode.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

PLAGUE SEARCHERS IN EUROPEAN HOUSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I hope I may count on your kind liberality in allowing me, through the medium of your paper, to give utterance to the vindication of my rights, which a member of the plague searching party wilfully ignored and trespassed upon. I will detail the occurrence as follows:—

On Saturday last, the 14th inst., at about 4.30 p.m., while I was undressing in my room preparatory to taking a bath, happy in the consciousness that I would be free from any intrusion, I suddenly discovered that some one was tampering with the handle of the door, and to my chagrin the door was vigorously pushed open and in stepped a burly Chinese, who, after confronting me for a second, gave me a withering glance of scorn and walked past me with a majestic gait into the bathroom, looking intently at every corner and crevice to find a something as if his very life depended upon that something. Finding myself, however, so badly treated by my unwelcome guest, I naturally felt hurt, and, moreover, being the host I resorted to my right of questioning his mission, to which query he replied with a most nonchalant air, "Have got plague." I answered him that there was no plague, and further asked him who on earth could have put such a notion into his head. He remarked that he came to look for plague as the house was tenanted by Chinese. I replied that I was the occupier, and the Chinese he was alluding to were my servants, so I demanded his prompt exit, whereupon he became insolent and freely used uncouth language to

give vent to his insolence. Not without a goodly amount of shouting did he condescend to betake himself off.

What if a member of my family other than myself, I mean a female one, had been in the act of bathing and this same fellow had made his sudden appearance in the bathroom without warning! Would it be becoming? Surely not. I am quite sure that one and all will unhesitatingly side with me in condemning such a gross miscarriage of duty. Again, if powers are vested in searchers to search for plague in European houses, could they not effect it more reasonably? Firstly, they might be more polite in their dealings, and secondly, could not the authorities furnish them with a written order notifying that both European and Chinese houses alike are subject to search?

I hope the Sanitary Board will use its good offices by taking efficient steps to check a repetition of such an act as I have described, and will also instruct its subordinates to exercise a due amount of civility.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. M. XAVIER.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1898.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

THE SUBMISSION OF MAT SALLEH.

The *British North Borneo Herald* gives the following account of the submission of Mat Salleh:—

In consequence of a letter from Mr. Cowie and H. E. the Governor dated March 26th, Mat Salleh came down to the Ulu Menggatal for the purpose of discussing matters, and tendering his submission, the Company's police having in the meantime, been withdrawn from the interior.

On April 19th Mr. Cowie went up unarmed and alone to Palutan (Ulu Menggatal) where he met Mat Salleh. During the interview, which was wholly amicable, Mat Salleh asked that his men who are in gaol should be released, and that he and his followers should be allowed to live on the R. Inanum. Both these requests were refused, the first on the ground that these men had been put in gaol for their own crimes, and that it was the fortune of war, and the second because the Government had other views as to his disposal. Mr. Cowie said the Government were willing to grant Mat and his men a free pardon, on condition that they surrendered their guns as a token of submission, and in future should help instead of hindering the Government. Mat Salleh stated that in the beginning his troubles were in connection with his own people, and that he wished no harm to the Government. It was arranged that a meeting should take place on the following day between H. E. the Governor and Mat Salleh at Pangeran Kahar's village on the Menggatal.

In the evening Mat Salleh sent in his spear and kris as tokens of goodwill. These were accepted and returned by Mr. Cowie, who said he trusted that in future they would be used in the Company's service and not against it.

On the 20th April Mr. Cowie and H. E. the Governor, accompanied by Messrs. Wise and Pearson, went up unarmed to Pangeran Kahar's village, arriving there about 9 a.m. After waiting about an hour and three quarters for Mat Salleh (his delay being ostensibly on account of the death of a child of one of his men) he arrived at Pangeran Kahar's house, followed by about 200 men armed with spears and krisses, several also carrying rifles and wearing cartridge belts full of cartridges. Terms were again proposed to him, and he was told that he would be allowed to live in the interior, and take charge of the Tambunans. He again, apparently at the instigation of Merawi and Dato Sahak, made the two requests which Mr. Cowie had refused him the day before, and was told that two men only, viz., Bandar and another, would be released, on account of their old age, but that the Inanum was closed to him. However the Inanum men who had followed him would be allowed to return there; on being asked whom he would suggest as a chief for them he named the O. K. Sarail, a man whom Mr. Wise had already proposed to place there.

He expressed himself willing to give up his guns (which he said were five in number), but asked that no police should be stationed on the

Inanum, and that none but his own men should be allowed to live there.

This request was absolutely refused. On the proposal about the Interior being put to him he questioned the title of the Government to the Ulu Sugut, and the Ulu Inanum, stating that they belonged to him and his people, having been made over to them by the Sultans of Sulu and Brunei; this claim, however, he did not wish to press against the Government, but against the Sultans of Sulu and Brunei. Mr. Cowie assured him that this was the first time he had heard any doubts raised as to the Government's title to those territories. It was also pointed out to him that the Government had shewn their confidence in him by their head representatives coming to meet him unarmed and virtually putting themselves in his power; that now it was time that he returned this confidence, by coming on board the steamer *Petrel* and talking matters over there. To this proposal he did not seem to agree.

His attitude with regard to terms, though polite and respectful, except in the two matters of unpunctuality and the armed force, was very different to his behaviour on the previous day which had led Mr. Cowie to propose the second meeting.

On the evening of the 20th, Mr. Cowie sent for Pangeran Kahar, and most of the correspondence between the Government and Mat Salleh was read to him, in order that they might get a clear idea of the case; he was then asked by Mr. Cowie to inform Mat Salleh that his behaviour in bringing armed men to meet unarmed men was a breach of all law and custom. On the occasion of Mr. Cowie's first visit he had been very pleased with the respectful way in which he had been received; so much so indeed that it had induced him to ask H.E. the Governor to accompany him the day following; with the second visit, however, he was greatly disappointed, for on seeing the unlooked-for display of armed men, he had felt that he had placed himself in a very false position with H.E. the Governor, for though he had been willing to risk his own life by placing himself in Mat Salleh's hands, he did not feel justified in jeopardising the lives of others. Moreover, when Mr. Cowie paid his first visit he had gone as a mediator only, and therefore did not object to the presence of the armed men, but on the following day he and H.E. the Governor did not come in that capacity, but as the representatives of the Government offering terms of peace. And it was not fitting that Mat Salleh, by bringing an armed force, should place himself in the position of the dictating party; and, moreover, that the Government having trusted him to the extent of its representatives coming unarmed he ought to have reciprocated that confidence.

He was told to send a final answer, or rather to come himself to the ship or the shore on the 21st, and meet Mr. Cowie and H.E. the Governor with the same show of confidence with which they had met him, or failing this that ten days should be given him to return up country and resume his *status quo*, during which time no action would be taken against him, unless he himself first broke the peace, in which case hostilities would recommence immediately.

In reply to this message Mat Salleh said that he wished first to go round to Sayap Tampassuk and other places and report progress to his friends, after which he would return and tender his formal submission. Mr. Cowie then sent a message back saying that there must be no further delay if he wished to submit, and that he must either come on board the s.s. *Petrel* or be present at the hoisting of the Company's flag at Menggatal on the 22nd. To this H.E. the Governor added that if Mat Salleh would meet Mr. Cowie and himself on the sea-shore on the following day (22nd) with his men unarmed, the Government would consider it a sufficient proof of his good intentions.

On the 22nd a further letter was written saying that as his delay was possibly due only to fear he would be given until mid-day on the 23rd to tender his submission. This letter however never reached Mat Salleh, as he had already sent word to Pangeran Kahar that he had decided to throw himself on the mercy of the Government, and would be present at the ceremony of hoisting the flag at the Pangeran's village on the Menggatal on the 22nd.

At 10 a.m. on the morning of the 22nd the Company's flag was hoisted, and formal possession taken of the Liver Menggatal, the party present consisting of Mr. Cowie and H.E. the Governor, accompanied by Messrs. Wise and Pearson, together with a small body of Sikh police, and a landing party of about 50 Blue-jackets and Marines from H.M.S. *Swift*. At the appointed place the party was met by Pangeran Kahar. When the men were drawn up in three sides of a square before the flagstaff, Mr. Cowie addressed a few words to the officers and men of the *Swift*. He said that he was extremely grateful for the kind and willing way in which they had helped both him and the Government ever since they had been there, and that to-day they were about to witness and take part in the final scene connected with the troubles which had caused their presence in the country, namely the formal submission of the rebel Mat Salleh. Mr. Cowie then told the natives in their own language that the Company had taken over the Government of their river, and that as long as all behaved well they would obtain nothing but advantage from the change. The Company's flag was being hoisted in place of the Pangeran's but the Pangeran would be with them still to govern and advise them. H.E. the Governor endorsed Mr. Cowie's words, and added that he hoped that trade would increase, and every one be happy under the new flag. Under that flag which was the same as the Queen's, no innocent man would be allowed to suffer, nor any man who wilfully disobeyed the laws to escape just punishment.

The Pangeran Kahar then asked his followers whether they all accepted the Company's rule, and if any one had anything to say against that flag being hoisted. To this all replied that they were satisfied; the bugle sounded the Royal salute, and the flag was run up as the troops presented arms. Three cheers were then given in which the natives joined as heartily as they knew how. Hardly had this been accomplished when a man was seen approaching bearing a white flag, followed at a short distance by Mat Salleh himself, and one or two of his chief men, quite unarmed. Mr. Cowie went a few yards to meet him and led him into the middle of the assembly. Mat Salleh said that he wished to submit absolutely to the authority of the Government, and then turned round and told the natives present that from this time he was on the side of the Government and that if any one made a disturbance they would know it was not he. Having said that he took an oath of allegiance before the Koran. When the large flag which had been hoisted was being changed for a smaller permanent one some one suggested that Mat Salleh should haul it up. To this he willingly agreed and with his own hands hauled up the Company's flag in the presence of everyone. After shaking hands all round, he crossed the river to the Pangeran's house, where H.E. the Governor gave him a letter of safe conduct. The party then returned to the ship after a most successful morning; the only hitch in the proceedings was that the boat in which Mr. Cowie and H.E. were going up the river struck a snag and speedily filled. Luckily it was very near the bank and no one got even a wetting.

In the evening Mat Salleh sent in five rifles as agreed upon and a present of a parang each to Mr. Cowie and the Governor.

On the morning of the 23rd, the following document was drawn up and sent to Mat Salleh for his signature. Pangeran Kahar was bearer and witness:—

TO MAHOMED SALLEH.

In consideration of your having submitted to the Government, the Government hereby grants you the following:—

- i. You and your followers are pardoned for levying war against the Government, but people who have escaped from Gaol, and committed other offences, are not pardoned for such offences.
- ii. Sabandar and Mallam will be released at once from Sandakan Gaol if still there.
- iii. People turned out of R. Inanum by the Government may return and live there, but as there are some who might give trouble, they will not be allowed to return till O. K. Serail or any other Government headman, and the District Officer give permission.

iv. Mat Salleh will be allowed to live at Tam-bunan, or elsewhere in the interior, except on the rivers Sugut and Labuk. The Government hopes he will use his influence to induce the tribes there to follow the Government.

v. Mat Salleh at the request of the Government will always assist in arresting any required for any offence.

vi. Mat Salleh will frequently supply information to the Government as to his proceedings.

vii. If Mat Salleh comes to the coast he must report himself to the District Officer.

(Signed). W. C. COWIE,
L. P. BEAUFORT,
MAT SALLEH,
+ his mark
DATO SAHAK,
+ his mark.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE CONVENTION.

The Russo-Chinese Convention with regard to Liaotung and correlated matters, was signed in Peking on the 27th of March, and a copy of it has been forwarded to the *Jiji Shimpō* by the latter's special correspondent in that city. It runs as follows:—

Li and Chang (here follow their titles and degrees) having been invested with plenipotentiary powers by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China, and M. Pauloff, Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* in Peking, having been similarly invested by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, have this day—3rd of the 3rd month of the 24th year Kuangshu—concluded the following convention with regard to the leasing of Port Arthur and Talien:—

Art. I.—In order to provide for Russia a suitable basis on the northern coast of China, and thereby to render her naval position complete and secure, His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees hereby to lease Port Arthur and Talien together with their adjacent waters to Russia. Provided that the Sovereign rights of the Middle Kingdom shall not be impaired by the transaction.

Art. II.—With regard to the limit of the leased land, steps shall hereafter be taken to determine by survey to what distance the boundary should be carried in a northerly direction from Talien in order to provide for the security of that place. But the exact limits and all other details connected with the operation of this Convention shall be determined after consultation between the Chinese Representative in St. Petersburg and the Russian Government. Provided that, within the limits thus determined, Russian shall enjoy the right and privileges of a lessee.

Art. III.—The period of the lease shall be 25 years from date of signing this Convention. Provided that, at the conclusion of that period, it may be prolonged by mutual agreement between the contracting parties.

Art. IV.—The district, territorial and maritime, described in Art. I, shall serve as a depot of military and naval supplies to Russia, and the principal officials administering its affairs may be Russians, acting under a chief who shall have general responsibility. Provided, however, that such officials must not bear the title of governor-general or visiting inspector. The troops of the Middle Kingdom shall not be permitted to encamp within the limits of the leased land, but civilian subjects of the Middle Kingdom shall be entitled to reside there provided that they do not behave lawlessly. In the event of a breach of the law by a Chinese subject, he shall be handed over to the nearest Chinese local tribunal for judgment and the infliction of a penalty. All details relating to the administration of justice shall be determined in accordance with the Russo-Chinese Treaty of 1860 (the 10th year of Hien-fung).

Art. V.—Beyond the northern boundary of the leased land an uninhabited space shall be left, its limits to be hereafter determined by the Chinese Representative in St. Petersburg and the Russian Government in consultation. All affairs within this space shall be under the control of Chinese officials, but Chinese troops may not enter there except after consultation with the Russian authorities.

Art. VI.—The contracting parties agree to regard Port Arthur as a naval station. It shall be used by Russian and Chinese ships only, and neither the men-of-war nor the merchantmen of any other Power shall have access to it. Similarly, in the case of Talien Bay, one part shall serve as a naval station for the war-ships of China and Russia, but the rest shall be a commercial port open for the ingress and egress of the ships of all nations.

Art. VII.—In view of the importance of Port Arthur and Talien, Russia undertakes to construct, at her own expense, whatever barracks and forts may be required, and to adopt whatever other means are necessary, for the defence of those places.

Art. VIII.—It shall be permitted to construct a railway, from a point in the part of Trans-Asian trunk road for the building of which China gave her consent in 1896, at Talien, all the details of construction to be in accordance with the Chinese system of Manchurian lines. Moreover, a branch of the line so constructed may be carried from some place midway between Yingtsze (Newchwang) and the Yalu River to a convenient point on the sea coast. All details relating to the direction of the roads and their building shall be settled by the Chinese Representative in St. Petersburg in consultation with the Director of the Trans-Asian Railway. Provided that the Russian Government explicitly engages that there shall be no trespassing upon, or seizure of, Chinese territory in connection with the above railways works.

Art. IX.—This Convention shall become operative from the day of its conclusion, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in St. Petersburg.

The above appears to have been rendered from the Chinese into Japanese, so that our interpretation is only a translation from a translation, and cannot be relied on for accuracy. One very important point, however, appears quite plain, namely, that a portion of Talien Bay is to be converted into a naval station accessible to Chinese and Russian war-ships only. That is a new feature of an open port. Another interesting point is that there is to be a branch of the Liaotung railway, leading from a point mid-way between Newchwang and the mouth of the Yalu to the sea. What sea is contemplated we cannot yet tell—whether the Gulf of Pechili or the Yellow Sea. If the former Newchwang will probably be the objective point. If the latter, the line will probably traverse Southern Shingking and emerge at Takushan, which is about 25 miles west of the mouth of the Yalu.—*Japan Mail*.

RUSO-JAPANESE KOREAN CONVENTION.

Kobe, 11th May.

The protocol of the Russo-Japanese Convention recognising the independence of Korea, was published in the *Official Gazette* yesterday. It is practically as follows:—

1.—Both Japan and Russia shall unreservedly recognise the independence of Korea.

2.—In the event of Korea applying in future for advisers regarding internal administration or for officers to train her army or navy, to whichever one of the two countries she may apply, the application shall be dealt with by the two countries together.

3.—Russia recognises that many Japanese subjects are actually residing in Korea, and that Japanese have already considerable commercial and industrial interests at stake in the country, so Russia undertakes not to attempt in future to retard their development.—*N. C. Daily News*.

PROCLAMATION BY THE "VICEROY OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN."

The *Kuo-wen-pao* published the following, copied by a correspondent from a proclamation recently issued in Port Arthur by the Russian official who, for lack of a more comprehensive title, is styled "Viceroy of the Pacific Ocean and Governor of Port Arthur and Talienwan."

The proclamation states that this official "has selected certain lands for the erection of Government offices and buildings, a very important matter. That the land so selected covers an area running from the Dock Offices, west of

the Ch'eng Tzu Street to the large bridge west of the vegetable market; extends along the river bank to West New Street and South New Street to the sea embankment. All houses within this area to be positively vacated between the 10th and 20th of this month, the value of the property being paid by the Russo-Chinese Bank. Those who have been unable to dispose of their property within the time allotted, must vacate their houses and leave the value to be estimated and paid for by an official who will be appointed for the purpose. The Russo-Chinese Bank will examine all title-deeds and pay the value of property estimated thereon. Gentry and merchants are alike requested to duly note this public proclamation, which is urgent, and must be promptly obeyed."—*China Gazette*.

MORE RUSSIAN DEMANDS.

It is officially reported in local mandarin circles that Russia has secretly demanded the lease of not only Kinchou a few miles from Port Arthur but also of Fuchou, a sub-prefectural city further north of the former city. These with the possession also of Kaiping at the head of the Liaotung Peninsula will give the Russians the entire control of the Peninsula.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A NEW MINING CONCESSION.

A Peking correspondent writes as follows:—It has been long known that the province of Shansi is full of mineral deposits in vast variety, which for hundreds of years have remained practically untouched, owing to the primitive state of Chinese industrial ideas, and the immense difficulties of transportation. At length, however, the prospect of the completion of the Lu-Han railway in the comparatively near future (?) and the increased facilities which the line will afford for transportation have turned the attention of the world to the buried wealth of the province, and numerous speculators are in the field endeavouring to secure concessions for the development of these latent riches. Amongst other competitors is an influential Anglo-Italian Syndicate, whose representative in Peking has had the active assistance of the British and Italian Ministers in the furtherance of his aims. This gentleman's name is Mr. Lusatti (?) and he has so far succeeded in his object that he has signed a contract with the Chinese authorities, giving power, under certain conditions, to the capitalists whom he represents, to proceed with mining operations in Shansi. The leading heads of the agreement are reported to be as under:—

(1)—The Syndicate is granted the exclusive right of working coal, iron, and silver-mines in the districts of Yu-hsien (Luang-fu), and Ping-tien (Tsi Chow fu), Shansi.

(2)—The Syndicate will embark a capital of Tls. 10,000,000 in the speculation.

(3)—The profits of the undertaking are to be divided as follows: 3 per cent. is to be considered as interest on the capital; 10 per cent. is to be devoted to the repayment of the capital; 25 per cent. is to be paid into the Treasury of the Central Government; 25 per cent. into the Provincial Treasury of Shansi, and the Syndicate is to take the remaining 32 per cent.

(4)—The contract is to be for a term of sixty years, on the expiry of which all the rights of the Syndicate are to revert to the Governor of Shansi.—*China Gazette*.

THE SHASI RIOT.

THE NEW LIKIN ARRANGEMENTS.

Shanghai, 10th May.

Several official telegrams were received here from Shasi this morning, telling of serious riots at that place, which are doubtless connected with the impending changes in the mode of collecting likin in Hupeh under the terms of the new Chinese loan by which the likin is diverted from the hands of the native officials into the those of the I. M. Customs. The riot, in which we learn the soldiery, of whom there are large numbers at Shasi, played a prominent part, took the form of the usual looting and burning, in which the Chinese officials and *literati* find expression for their views through the medium of Chinese mobs. The Imperial Maritime Customs premises, the agencies of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and of the China Mer-

chants' Co. were all destroyed, while the British Consulate, which is conveniently located in a hulk, was attacked but moved off into the stream out of reach of the rioters. Mr. Clennell, the acting British Consul, was absent at the time, having come down on leave to Shanghai, from which he is just now en route back to his post. The British gunboat *Esk*, which is at Hankow, has been hurriedly ordered up to Shasi. We are evidently going to see plenty of trouble over this new mode of dealing with likin and the sooner some British and German gunboats are sent up the Yangtse to duly impress the native mind the better.—*China Gazette*.

HOW SPAIN EXPLOITS THE PHILIPPINES.

In a memorial to the Spanish nation from Philipinos resident in Madrid on the abuses and maladministration of the country the following interesting information appears:

More than 86 millions of pesetas is the amount consigned in the Philippine budgets for the economical year 1896-97, but from this large expenditure not a single peseta is allowed for public works, highways, bridges or public buildings; and only 30,000 pesetas for scientific studies, necessary works, rivers and canals; whilst the amount destined for religious worship and clergy amounts to nearly seven millions of pesetas; (in this is not included the amount squeezed by the clergy for baptisms, marriages, burials, sale of indulgences, papal bulls, masses, feasts, scapularies, etc., etc., amounting to considerably more than the Government allowance), 200,000 pesetas are proportioned for subvention to Railway Company, new projects for railways, whilst the College for Franciscan Monks, (in Spain) and the transport of priests is awarded 275,000 pesetas.

Thirty thousand pesetas only to attend to the new improvements proposed, and yet the Choir instruction school of Manila Cathedral costs the Government 20,000 pesetas, and the maintenance of the Cathedral 294,000 pesetas! This quantity is only 9,525 pesetas below the vote for public instruction, technical schools, naval academy, schools of drawing, painting, sculpture and engraving, normal school for Masters, practical professional studies of art and literature, Museums, Libraries and observatory and the support of a special chair in the University of Madrid. The Philippine treasury further pays a heavy contribution to the general expenses of the State, the pension to the Duke of Veragua (descendent of Columbus), the Marquis of Bedmar, and the Sultans and datus of Sulu and Mindanao; the entire cost of the Spanish Consulates of Peking, Tokio, Hongkong, Singapore, Melbourne, Saigon, and Yokohama and Amoy, the staff and material of the Ministry of the Colonies, including the useless Council of the Philippines, the expenses of the upkeep of the non self-supporting Colony of Fernando Po in Africa and all the pensions, jublations, and retiring allowances of the Civil and Military employees that have served in the Philippines, amounting to the grand total of 5,890,600 pesetas yearly.—*Singapore Free Press*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Plague in Canton is reported to be getting worse, but no one can tell the exact number of cases occurring daily for the Chinese have a great objection to let it be known if there is any plague-stricken patient in their houses. The disease has extended to Fatsan and is also prevalent in San-oi district. The Viceroy and the Governor have given orders to the local Magistrates to engage coolies to cleanse all the streets, also to exhort the inhabitants to keep their houses clean.

On the 3rd instant a band of robbers made an attack on a theatre boat in San-oi district, where a procession was taking place. Booty amounting to the value of three thousand dollars was carried away.

There are two gangs of robbers in Hoi-yeung district, in the prefecture of Waichow, the Black Flag and the Red Flag. These two gangs are not on good terms and fights often break out between them. They often go in large bands to commit robberies and other crimes, and they even butcher human beings.

for their food. The local officers have not sufficient forces to cope with them, but the Canton Government has lately sent General Chang with a good number of soldiers to preserve order, and about forty of the Black Flag and two of the Red Flag have been caught. They all confessed their guilt.

A man named Luk Chok-yung, of Heung-shan district, has been arrested by a military officer on account of his taking part with Dr. Sun Yat-sen in the attempted Canton insurrection. He pleads guilty and says that he is ignorant of the whereabouts of Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

Twenty thousand soldiers enlisted by General Liu Yung-fuk arrived at Canton on the 11th instant. Most of them were members of the Black-Flag, and are natives of Szechow and Yanchow, in Kwangsi. They are divided into five regiments and stationed in various parts of Canton.

On the 13th instant a junk towed by a steam-launch running between Canton and Kiangmun was attacked by a number of robbers near Pak-tung on the West River. The usual plan was used, some robbers boarding the boat as passengers. The robbers at first wished to cut the tow rope, but to their great dismay the rope could not be cut, for it was of steel. The steam-launch then went on at full speed, beating gongs to give the alarm. Not long afterwards another junk appeared in sight and a number of people from the land also came forward to render assistance. The robbers, seeing that the time was not favourable to their enterprise, jumped into the water to make their escape. Fire was at once opened on them from the junks and the people on shore. Two robbers were killed, but all the others made good their escape.

HONGKONG.

The *Hugh McCulloch*, with despatches from the American squadron in Manila Bay, arrived in Kowloon Bay on Sunday last and remained until Tuesday, taking back with her General Aguinaldo and other Filipino leaders. On Tuesday the *Esmeralda*, which had come round by Amoy, arrived from Manila. She, like the *McCulloch*, reported everything quiet. H.M.S. *Swift* left for the Philippines yesterday. On Saturday and Wednesday Ozorio, who is charged with the murder of Mr. Jesus, of 2, West Terrace, was again brought up at the Magistracy and again remanded. At a meeting of the Sanitary Board on Thursday Dr. Clark took occasion to refute certain statements made by a correspondent to an evening contemporary reflecting on the Board's conduct with regard to plague patients. The Chief Justice gave judgment in the Hardeen v. Bellios case on Thursday, non-suiting plaintiff.

H.M.S. *Swift* left for Manila on the 20th May.

Mr. Bilby, of Raub, left England on the 6th May by the *Kawakura Maru* for Singapore.

There were 1,903 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 208 were Europeans.

Special services are being held in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in supplication for the cessation of the plague.

The Hongkong Rifle Association's annual prize meeting will be held on Saturday and Monday, 28th and 30th May.

The *Victor Emanuel* was towed from her old moorings on 17th May over to Mongkok-tsui, where she is to be broken up.

Another company of the Royal Artillery will arrive from home this week end. There will then be three companies in the Garrison.

The stamp revenue last month was \$27,349, being an increase of \$7,300 on the amount collected in the corresponding month last year.

The P. & O. steamer *Bengal* was released from quarantine at Shanghai on the 10th May. The sick man was found not to be suffering from plague.

The statement made by the *Singapore Free Press* that Messrs. Bradley and Co. had bought the steamer *Cheang Hock Kien* is, we are informed, incorrect.

The N. P. steamer *Olympia*, which arrived from Tacoma and Japanese ports on 17th May reports that on the 16th May, at 6.30 p.m., she passed two capsized junks between Kup-chi and Tong-sui.

On 18th May Commander Hastings fined two Chinamen \$25 each for being in possession the previous day of 140 lbs. of flour which they were suspected of having obtained unlawfully.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on the 19th May the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson) said he had received a letter from Mr. McCallum, who said his health had improved and that he intended to leave Japan on the 1st June.

A coolie who was charged at the Magistracy on 16th May with stealing 71 bottles, the property of the Hongkong Dairy Farm Company, admitted the offence and added, "I took the bottles to buy samshu." He was sentenced to 42 days' imprisonment.

At the Supreme Court on Thursday afternoon the Chief Justice (Sir John Carrington) said he wished to express his regret that judgment had been so long delayed in the case of Musso against Musso. Judgment would be delivered within the next few days.

At the annual meeting of the Fire Insurance Association of Hongkong held on 16th May the following Committee was elected for the ensuing year:—Messrs. J. B. Coughtrie (Chairman), H. Crombie, C. H. Lammert, W. H. T. Davis, R. Fuhrmann, W. H. Hill, and J. H. Lewis.

The report of the Po Leung Kuk Society for last year is published in the *Gazette*. Of the persons whose cases have been dealt with during the year 21 were married, 12 adopted, 1 died, 83 males and 220 females were sent home, and 48 women and children still remained in charge of the society.

A Chinaman somewhat deficient in the upper storey jumped into the water near the Harbour-Master's Office the other morning, and in endeavouring to get him out an Indian constable was pulled in. The man was ultimately got out and taken to the Central Police Station and subsequently to the hospital.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 41.5, and for the Chinese community 35.3. The number of deaths in the British and Foreign community was 30, of which 16 were from bubonic plague. In the Chinese community the number of deaths was 747, of which 416 occurred from bubonic plague.

A dealer in lime and cement was on 18th May fined \$50 dollars for obstructing Inspector Duncan in the discharge of his duty. The Inspector called at defendant's shop and asked to see the scales so that he could test them. Defendant said he had none, but after searching for about 20 minutes the Inspector found them in a cock-loft. They were quite correct.

Cheung Chi, a boy at the Bay View Hotel, was on 18th May charged with disobeying the lawful and reasonable orders of the manager, Mr. Henry Williams. On Tuesday Mr. Williams told him to get dinner for the clerk and his assistant and defendant replied, "Not my pidgin; No. 5." The boys had arranged to do this work in turn, but No. 5 was engaged waiting on three guests upstairs. When complainant insisted defendant became abusive and was given into custody. He was fined \$15.

It has been represented to us by Chinese that plague patients being conveyed to hospital in the ambulances provided for that purpose are subjected to great suffering from the heat when the removal takes place in the middle of the day, owing to the covers affording insufficient protection from the sun. When the patient has to be conveyed a long distance, say from Wanchai, it is said he is almost suffocated before his arrival at the hospital. It is suggested that double covers should be provided and that the ambulances be better ventilated.

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Dodwell left for home on the 19th May by the P. M. steamer *Peru*, and a large number of their friends assembled on board to wish them good-bye. From the minutes of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce published in another column it will be seen that that body made an appreciative recognition of Mr. Dodwell's services as one of its members, and the remarks then made will be endorsed by the community at large. Mr. Dodwell has for several years past been a prominent figure in commercial circles and has rendered substantial service to the trade of the colony, and from a social point of view also the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Dodwell will be much regretted.

John Brown and Thomas Moison created something of a sensation at Yaumati on Thursday afternoon. Inspector Robertson told Commander Hastings at the Magistracy yesterday that first defendant had two or three stones in his hands. He threw two at some Chinese, who ran into shops out of his way, and deliberately threw another one at a street-lamp, breaking two panes. The man was drunk, as was also second defendant, whom, however, he did not see throw any stones. When arrested first defendant was very disorderly and the officer had to put the irons on him. First defendant, who said he was very sorry, was fined \$7, and ordered to pay \$150 damage. Second defendant was fined \$3.

At the Magistracy on 17th May Mrs. Hop Wau and Mrs. Hock Goon, who reside at 4, Western street, West Point, submitted their differences to Commander Hastings. Each felt aggrieved and had taken out a summons against the other for the use of abusive language. It appeared from the evidence that on Sunday night Mrs. Hock Goon was scolding one of her children, who was crying, and Mrs. Hop Wau objected to the language she used to the child, saying that she did not care to have such language used in the hearing of her daughter. This was the beginning of a wordy war which resulted in the summonses being taken out. The Magistrate thought Mrs. Hock Goon was most in fault, for he fined her \$15 and discharged Mrs. Hop Wau.

From Suva we (*Fiji Colonist*) hear that it is rumoured that His Excellency Sir Geo. T. M. O'Brien is seriously considering the advisability of an early retirement from the Governorship of this colony. It is further stated that the name of the Hon. James Stewart, Acting Colonial Secretary, is mentioned as having been submitted to the Home Authorities as his successor as Lieutenant-Governor at £1,500 per annum, thus saving £1,000 a year to the colonial revenue. The first man Fiji had as a Governor, Sir Charles Mitchell, retired disheartened after but a very short stay, and Sir Geo. O'Brien, who has only been with us long enough to revive hopes of renewed prosperity, is now said to be desirous of returning to the privacy of that retirement whence he emerged to take the command of our colony. Sad indeed will be our lot and hopeless our prospects, if there should be any foundation of truth in this sensational rumour, for it will prove not only to the Home Authorities but to the world at large, that any existent anticipations of raising Fiji's commercial status are rotten in the extreme and utterly beyond the serious contemplation of any practical, high-minded, and conscientious Governor.

The following circular has been issued by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, dated Tokyo, 1st April:—To those exporters from China, Hongkong, and Japan to Europe, or to other ports via Europe, who, from the 1st May to 31st October, 1898, have found it to their interest to confine their support and shipments, during that period, to the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, we shall be happy to allow a rebate of five per cent. on the freight paid on tea and general cargo. To those who on the 30th April, 1899, have found it to their interest to continue their support and shipments to the said Line, we will allow a further five per cent. on freights contributed up to 31st October, 1898, and ten per cent. on those from that date to 30th April, 1899. Until further notice, shipments made by the P. & O. S. N. Co., M.M., N. G. Lloyd's, Austrian Lloyd's, Rubattino, Ocean S. S. Co., Glen, Shire, Ben, Mutual, Shell, Hamburg-American, and Kingsin Lines, and shipments by direct steamers to Black Sea ports, will not invalidate claims for the above. No returns will be payable on freight contributed by rice and oils from Japan, silk and treasure, and the produce of the Eastern Archipelago transhipped at Hongkong. Exporters applying for the returns, which will be payable in Tokyo on and after 1st January and 1st July, 1899, respectively, must fill up and sign the forms which can be obtained on application at any of the Company's Branch Offices or Agencies. By mutual agreement, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha will quote five per cent. below the gross rates, to London, of the Lines mentioned herein, on shipments up to the 30th June, 1898.

For breaking and entering a shed on the Canton Wharf for the purpose of committing a felony a Chinaman was on 18th May sentenced to three months' hard labour.

At about ten to twelve on Wednesday night an alarm of fire was raised. The Fire Brigade turned out, and went to 104, Queen's Road West—a Chinese shop. Here they found some wood on fire. The flames were soon extinguished and but little damage was done.

The wreck of the American ship *Daniel Barnes*, which stranded recently in Allas Straits off the Lombok Coast, has been sold by auction at Sourabaya, along with 41,000 cases of petroleum on board, for 3,800 guilders. Five thousand cases of petroleum from on board, which had been landed upon the coast of Lombok, fetched 3,000 guilders.

In the Supreme Court on Thursday afternoon the Chief Justice (Sir John Carrington) delivered judgment in the case of *Hardoon v. Belilios*. His Lordship found that "defendant fails in his application for a non-suit on the ground of fact, but succeeds in it on the ground of law. There will, therefore, be a judgment of non-suit. The defendant will have his general costs of suit, but the plaintiff will be entitled to set off against these costs the costs of two days' hearing during which the questions of fact were debated." The hearing of the case began on April 13th, and occupied eight days.

We have to acknowledge receipt of a medical work in Chinese entitled "Tables of arteries, veins, and nerves," arranged by E. C. Machle, M.D., Lienchow, China. A preface in English states that "In the following pages, which were compiled while teaching, the compiler has endeavoured to arrange the principal arteries, veins, and nerves with their branches in clear and concise tables so as to assist the memory of the Chinese student in the study of these parts of anatomy. The terms were taken from Whitney's Anatomical and Physiological Vocabulary. Thanks are due to the writer's friend, Dr. J. G. Ker, LL.D., for editing the same."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The British fleet left Chefoo on the 9th May for steam tactics and firing, and was to return in a day or two, preparatory to proceeding to Weihaiwei.

The *Macao Independent* issued a special edition on the 17th May in celebration of the fourth centenary of Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India. It consists of a number of cantos of Camoes' *Luciades*.

The *Sarawak Gazette* of the 2nd May has the following "snake story" from Mr. Ernest Hose. The other day, at Tambak, Mr. Hose, hearing the cries of wild pig proceeding from the jungle adjoining his house, went with his dogs. He shortly came upon a large python surrounded by about twenty pigs, goring it with their tusks: a young pig had been seized by the python and its cries of distress had summoned the other members of the herd to its assistance; their arrival enabled them to effect a rescue, for the python was so lacerated that it relinquished its hold on its prey, which was so little injured that it decamped with the rest of the herd on perceiving the presence of human spectators.

According to the *Bangkok Times* Mr. Barrett, the retiring Minister for the United States to Siam, has accepted the post of war correspondent to a prominent American journal, and will make his way for the present to Manila. In an article on Mr. Barrett's departure our contemporary says:—Mr. Barrett has now bidden farewell to Siam, and it is perhaps some satisfaction to note that he was almost as sorry to go as the community is at having lost him. We have on more than one occasion expressed our sense of the brilliant work he has done as the Representative of the United States, and also of his great services to the community among whom he has been a resident for the past four years. That need not be repeated. But if he has deserved well of Bangkok, it can also be said that he has, by his wonderful energy and ability, made Bangkok deserve well of him. He came the youngest of Ministers, and though Siam is not among the mighty nations of the earth it gave him his opportunity. He returns

one of the highest authorities on the Far Eastern question at the very time when the problem is pressing for solution and when the United States has most need of such counsellors. From the moment that war became probable he saw that the question of the Philippines would in the end become of very much more importance than that of Cuba. The taking of the Philippines by America raises entirely new issues that do not appear to have been considered at all by the Powers, and will give the United States a new influence in the Far East. This eventuality hardly seems to have been grasped in America, but we understand that Mr. Barrett has already been using his influence to awaken the country to the importance of this fact. It is rumoured that he will go on to Manila as soon as possible, and there is no doubt he will do everything in his power to bring about a wise settlement when the question of the future of this exceedingly wealthy possession comes up.

COMMERCIAL.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,933,839	6,502,610
Shanghai and Hankow ..	15,292,418	19,119,126
Foochow	12,161,708	12,749,766
Amoy	685,651	616,350
	34,132,616	38,787,592

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	15,292,418	19,119,126
Foochow	12,161,708	12,749,766
Amoy	685,651	616,350
Canton and Macao	5,933,839	6,502,610
	34,132,616	38,787,592

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 14th May.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burki & Sons' Circular).—Advice from London quote Blue Elephants 10/7½, and the market firm. The latest quotation from Lyons is Frs. 26.50 for Gold Killing. Raw Silk.—Very little has been done during the last week. Some contracts have been made for new season Silk on the basis of Frs. 450 for Gold Killing but only to a very small extent. In Yellow Silks only a very small business has taken place, the stock is a very small one. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, May 7th to 13th are, 17 bales White, 46 bales Yellow, and 927 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—Some business has taken place in various market chops. A parcel of 70 bales Pegasus Tsatles 1, 2 and 3 has been settled at Frs. 535 average price. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is, 5,872 bales to America, 4,139 bales to the Continent, 8 bales to Japan and 34 bales to London. Wild Silk.—About 70 piculs Tussah Filatures 8 Co-rons, and 150 piculs Common Tussah Raws have changed hands. The stock of the latter is considerable and prices are weakening. Waste Silk.—The market still keeps very quiet.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent.: Exchange 2,61; Freight Frs. 7.45 per bale:

	lbs.	Strg.
Yellow Silk.—Meeyang (white)	315	7 04
Wongchow	265	5 11
Steam Filature.—First Choice, 11/3 den	735	15 84
Market Chops No. 3 (com.)	665	14 3
Hand Filature.—Pegasus 1, 2 & 3 av. price	535	11 7
Wild Silk.—Tussah Filature 8 Co-rons	270	6 04
Three Joss Chop	275	6 11
Double Bird Chop	275	6 11
Tussah Raw Common	145	3 5

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	12,564	8,914
Canton	11,623	4,779
Yokohama	32,687	25,382
	56,874	39,075

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	50,482	55,641
Canton	23,284	24,669
Yokohama	18,261	25,382
	91,927	105,732

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—Prices are rather weaker. Quotations for Formosa are \$43 to \$43.50. Sales, 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—A further improvement in this market has to be reported. Quotations are:—

Shackloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.23 to 7.28 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	7.03 to 7.06 "
Shackloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.77 to 4.80 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.65 to 4.68 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.17 to 7.20 "
do. " 2, White...	6.93 to 6.93 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.67 to 4.70 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.52 to 4.56 "
Footlow Sugar Candy	11.12 to 11.15 "
Shackloong	9.91 to 9.95 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Manila*, sailed on the 5th May. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For London:—5,445 bales hemp and 1 case cigars from Manila, 120 boxes tea from Foochow, 100 bales waste silk, 144 bales canes, 1,125 packages crackers, 55 packages rattan chairs, 50 cases preserves, 2 cases feathers, 52 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases curios, 12 cases effects, 20 cases essential oil, 16 cases sundries, 1 case bristles, and 1,419 boxes tea (29,610 lbs.). For London and/or Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For London and/or Liverpool:—400 packages tea. For Gibraltar:—4 cases curios. For Malta:—24 barrels wine.

Per steamer *Sularie*, sailed on the 7th May. For France:—250 bales raw silk, 2 cases silk 1,465 packages tea, 9 packages hair, 400 cases cassia, 265 packages matting. For London:—1 case treasure.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—Bengal.—There has been a further rise in prices, latest quotations being \$70 for New Patna, \$75 for Old Patna, \$70 for New Benares, and \$71½ nominally for Old Benares.

Malwa.—The market has ruled quiet. New is out of stock. Other descriptions are quoted as under:—

Old (25 yrs.) \$410 with allance of ¼ to 2½ cts.
" (67 ") \$810 " " of ¼ to 1 "
" (82 ") \$850 " " of 0 to 1½ "

Persian.—There has not been any change in the prices of this drug, Oily continuing to be quoted at \$490 to \$530, and Paper-wrapped at \$540 to \$670 according to quality.

Today's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	340 chests
Old Patna	350 "
New Benares	330 "
Old Benares	200 "
Malwa	160 "
Persian	500 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1-97	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
May 14	700	755	702½	710	...	...
May 15	702½	755	702½	715	...	...
May 16	702½	755	702½	715	...	...
May 17	702½	750	702½	710	...	...
May 18	702½	750	702½	717½	...	...
May 19	702½	750	702½	717½	...	...
May 20	705	750	702½	7 7½	...	...

RICE.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—The market is dull and prices remain unaltered. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.80 to 2.85
" Round, good quality	3.25 to 3.30
" Long	3.55 to 3.60
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	3.05 to 3.10
" Garden, No. 1 ..	3.70 to 3.75
" White	4.50 to 4.55
" Fine Cargo	4.75 to 4.80

COALS.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—The Coal market during the week has been very dull. Small sales of Japanese at \$9.00 to \$9.75 are reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$20.00 to 25.00 ex ship, Nominal.
Australian	11.00 to 13.00 ex ship, steady

Milki Lump } \$10.00 to 12.50 Nominal	
and Small.	
Moji Lump ... 9.00 to 11.50 ex ship, steady	
Hongay Lump 12.50 to — Nominal.	
Hongay Dust.. 5.00 to — „	
Briquettes ... 10.00 to — „	

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 6 at \$77, 50 bales No. 8 at \$78, 1,050 bales No. 16 at \$81 to \$89, 500 bales No. 12 at \$86.50 to \$90, 250 bales No. 16 at \$91 to \$97.50, 900 bales No. 21 at \$96 to \$102.50. **Grey Shirtings.**—100 pieces 10 lbs. 2 Lion at \$4.10, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Fish at \$2.57½, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Chair Chop at \$1.93, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.45, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Fish at \$2.57½, 800 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Fish at \$2.67½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Fish at \$2.57½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.67½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.97½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$3.06, 1,600 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Lion at \$2.02½, 1,400 pieces 7 lbs. Chair Chop at \$1.99½. **White Shirtings.**—500 pieces Fox and Duck at \$5.55, 250 pieces Girl Chop at \$5.82½, 250 pieces S. ear Man at \$5.35, 250 pieces 3 Stars at \$5.15, 250 pieces X. L. at \$5.05, 500 pieces D 70 at \$3.82½, 750 pieces G 90 at \$4.40, 250 pieces 3 stars at \$5.15, 250 pieces 3 stars at \$5.20, 250 pieces D 70 at \$3.82½, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.17½, 300 pieces No. 2 at \$6.57½, 500 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.02½, 500 pieces S S at \$4.77½, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.57½, 500 pieces D. 70 at \$3.82½. **T. Cloths.**—750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. 8 Shields at \$1.83, 2,250 pieces Mex. Sil. Joss at \$2.13. **Sp. Stripes.**—60 pieces B B B at \$0.63½, 12½ pieces B B B at \$1.63½, 61 pieces B B B at \$0.93½, 60 pieces B B B at \$0.63½. **Drills.**—150 pieces 14 lbs. Blue men No. 250 at \$3.65. **Velveteens.**—250 pieces 18 in. Y Stag at \$0.17½. **No. 23/24 Yarn.**—15 bales Green Buffals at \$126. **Long Ells.**—250 pieces 8 lbs. scarlet at \$7.20, 100 pieces 10 lbs. scarlet at \$8.20. **Blankets.**—90 pairs 9 lbs. scarlet at \$5.76, 90 pairs 11 lbs. scarlet at \$7.14. **Black Linings.**—200 pieces J M at \$16.75.

METALS.—Quick Silver.—100 flasks at \$137.50, 150 flasks at \$137.50 arrive, 100 flasks at \$141, 200 flasks at \$140 arrive, 50 flasks at \$141.—**Lead.**—340 piculs Australia at \$3.95.—**Tin.**—100 slabs Foong Chai at \$40.25.

COTTON YARN.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	74.00 to 104.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	111.00 to 117.00
„ 22 to 24	114.00 to 120.00
„ 28 to 32	124.00 to 129.00
„ 38 to 42	133.00 to 140.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.75 to 1.85
7lbs.	2.01 to 2.07½
8½ lbs.	2.50 to 3.29
9 to 10 lbs.	3.40 to 4.15
White Shirtings—51 to 56 rd.	2.41 to 2.60
58 to 60 „	2.75 to 3.45
64 to 66 „	3.55 to 4.40
Fine	4.35 to 7.15
Book-folds.	3.80 to 5.70
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.65 to 1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.55 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 „) „	1.91 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 „) „ Mexs.	1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 „) „	2.10 to 2.80
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.40 to 3.25
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14lbs.	3.75 to 5.15

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 7lbs.	1.60 to 5.00
Brocades—Dyed	3.00 to 5.00
Damasks	0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.14
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.20 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17½ to 0.18½
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.45 to 0.90
WOOLLEN	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.51½ to 1.40
German	1.15 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 5.25
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 9.00
Assorted	6.60 to 9.10
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted }	12.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain	7.00 to 8.50
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	5.50 to 14.00

METALS	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.20 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar	5.90 to —
Small Round Rod	4.75 to —
Hoop	5.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	1.50 to 3.00
Wire 15/25	9.50 to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ...	9.00 to —
Australian	31.50 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	31.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	31.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	31.00 to —
Composition Nails	— to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	35.00 to —
Tiles	29.00 to —
Tin	— to —
Tin-Plates	6.00 to —
Steel ½ to ¾	5.50 to —

SUNDRIES	per picul
Quicksilver	130.00 to —
Window Glass	4.35 to —
Kerosene Oil	1.80 to —

SHANGHAI, 14th May.—(From Messrs. Noell Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—The market may be described as decidedly active for the time of the year, a large business being again reported, in which American goods continue to hold the premier position. Not only have almost all the available supplies here of these makes been bought but also shipments near at hand, and fresh purchases are reported from New York to a very large extent. It is almost impossible to gauge the actual size of the business, however, as some Importers are under the mistaken idea that it is to their advantage to try and conceal what they are doing, whereas it seems to us that the knowledge of large purchases having been made for this market might deter others from going in, and thus prevent the tendency to overtrade that has been such a prominent feature with these goods during the past year or two. Several firms are kept fairly well posted as to what is being bought on the New York market for this as it is, so no harm could be done in reporting the aggregate quantity settled each week, and thus have a more accurate idea of what is actually coming forward. In Manchester makes the demand has been fairly general for all grades of Shirtings and a moderate business is reported at gradually hardening rates, but still below the cost of replacing; the heavy makes of Drills and Shetlings, with exception of a few favourite chops of the former, seem to be quite out of it. Clearances of all goods are keeping up wonderfully well. Favourable advices continue to come in from most of the Outports, the Northern markets particularly being in a much more flourishing condition, from all accounts. Disquieting news has been received of rioting in some of the Upper Yangtze Ports, which is supposed to be the outcome of the proposed new system of collecting the Leken Tax, but no serious harm has been done yet; however, it shows that the innovation will not be introduced without some little trouble. The Tea markets have been opened in Hankow and Kiukiang and high prices are being paid for the leaf. The Yarn market generally is very quiet both for the imported and local spinnings. Cotton is very strong, holders now asking Tls. 17.00 for best Machine Ginned. An attempt is evidently being made to corner the local Mills, but as best Indian Cotton, fully equal to the native staple, can be imported at Tls. 15.50 it is not likely to succeed.

METALS, 16th May.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report).—The few transactions given below represent the actual business reported during the week, but there has been a slightly better feeling manifested by those enquiring. Prices remain the same at home. Goffins may be had at 126s., and Sohairs at 124s., but the Chinese seem afraid to buy, a number of large arrivals helping this feeling. The monthly demand here is from 1,000 to 1,200 tons of Nailrods so that the recent arrival of two or three shipments of 1,000 tons each give them the idea that the market will be overstocked. Spelter, W. H. Remelted, is offering at 219.4, while the stock of hard Spelter is at present very small. The following has been done:—60 cases Corrugated Iron at 212.15, 60 cases Galvanised Iron Tls. 13.10, 200 tons London Horse-shoes at 89 to 90s., c.i.f., 200 tons Boiler Tubes, 8½ in. and up at 160s., c.i.f.,

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 20th May.

ON LONDON. —	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS. —	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.35
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.39½
ON GERMANY. —	
On demand	1.90
ON NEW YORK. —	
Bank Bills, on demand	45½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY. —	
Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	139
ON CALCUTTA. —	
Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	139
ON SHANGHAI. —	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA. —	
On demand	8 % pm.
ON MANILA. —	
On demand	1½ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE. —	
On demand	1½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.64
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	56.25

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—The market continues dull and inactive and with but little business to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week were negotiated in small lots at 189, 191, and 191 per cent. prem. and afterwards, on receipt of disturbing political news, at 189; at time of writing shares are enquired for at the last rate, but none appear to be forthcoming. Nationals and Bank of Chinas continue out of the market.

MARINE INSURANCES.—All shares under this heading have been offering at quotations without leading to business, the market closing weak.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Small sales of Chinas at \$98 is all there is to report. Hongkongs continue out of favour at \$332½ without business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao remain quiet and with but few sales at \$26½. Douglasses have changed hands at \$58½ and \$58, closing with small buyers at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have been completely out of the market with sellers at \$61½ failing to find buyers. China Manilas without business but with shares still obtainable at \$81. China Mutuals have found further buyers and close strong at quotation.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have found small buyers at \$161 and \$160 for 31st inst. and close with further sellers at that rate, whilst shares have changed hands at \$163 for June and \$168 and \$169 for August. Luzons have found further buyers at \$42 and \$42½.

MINING.—Panjoms have been negotiated at \$5.15 and \$5.25 and are still wanted at \$5.25. Charbonnages remain neglected. New Balmorals have changed hands at 85 cents and 70 cents and Olivers at \$15 and \$5, both closing with sellers. Jebebus after further sales at \$3 changed hands as high as \$4, closing at \$4.10. Raubs have ruled steady to strong with cash buyers at \$29½ and sales for August at \$31.50, market closing at \$29½ strong with buyers forward at better than equivalent rates.

LOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continuing in a small demand have further advanced to 25½ per cent. prem. with small buyers at that rate and no sales or sellers. Kowloon Wharves have ruled steady with sales at \$55½. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$72½ without finding buyers. Kowloon Lands have been negotiated at \$17, and Hotels at \$53 and \$53½. West Points and Humphreys Estates continue on offer at \$20 and \$8½ respectively without finding buyers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled somewhat firmer, a demand for old shares at \$27½ not having been met, whilst new issue continues steady to strong at \$12½. Watsons have changed hands at \$12 and \$11.85 and close weaker at latter rate. The report just issued shows a net profit of \$95,575.15, from which the management propose to write off \$26,336.14 from Furniture, Machinery, and Property accounts, to pay a final dividend of 50 cents per share, and to carry forward \$9,239.01. Electrics have changed hands at \$9½, Ices at \$110, and Tramways at \$107.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	189 ¾ prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£4	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares...	£8	\$18, sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$18, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$160, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 100
Hongkong	\$40	\$27½, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 107
Lau Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 520
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 99
Dairy Farm Co.	\$1	\$3½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$30, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$27½, sales
Do. New Issue	\$24	\$124, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$125
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$107, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$53½, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$110, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$55½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$164, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	255 p. ct. prem.=
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$113.75, sal. & b.
China Fire	\$20	\$37½, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$98, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$124, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$114, sellers
Union	\$50	\$25, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$134, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$72½, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$23, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$12, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fce. 500	\$125, sellers
Great E. & C. donian	\$	\$5, sellers
Do. Do.	\$2	\$150, sellers
Jelebu	\$1	\$1, buyers
New Balmoral	\$1	7 c. sales
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$5c, sales
Oliver's mine, A.	\$5	\$15, sellers
Do. B.	\$24	\$1, sellers
Punjoni	\$1	\$1½, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$17½, sellers
Raubs	14s. 1d.	\$29½, buyers
New Amy Dock	\$54	\$4.75
Steamship Co.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$84, sellers
China Mutual Ord.	£10	\$7 15s. buyers
Do. Preference ...	£10	£7 15s. buyers
Do. Do.	£5	\$2 15s. sales & b.
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$5	\$58, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$64, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$11, sellers
Star Ferry	\$74	\$94, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$1	\$1, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.40, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$41
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11.85, sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, broker.

SHANGHAI, 16th May.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—With exception of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares, but a small business has been put through during the week. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares changed hands at 193/196 per cent. premium, and a sale was made to Hongkong for delivery on the 31st current at 191 per cent. premium and exchange 74½, equal to 197 with exchange 73, and shares are offering

on the same terms. The London rate is £43.10.0. Bank of China and Japan and National Bank of China shares are neglected. Marine Insurance.—Business has been done in North China shares at Tls. 182½, and in Strait Insurance shares at \$11.75. Canton's changed hands in Hongkong at \$140 and \$135, and are offering at \$137½. Fire Insurance.—Chinas were placed here at \$98. A small lot of Hongkongs changed hands in Hongkong at \$332½. Shipping.—Nothing has been done in Indo-China S. N. shares. China Mutual S. N. Preference shares were purchased from Japan at Yen 76, equal to about Tls. 62.25. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares have been sold at Tls. 36, and are wanted for June at Tls. 37½. China Sugar Refining shares have been purchased from Hongkong at \$162, which will cost about \$167½ laid down here. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold to Singapore at \$22½ with exchange 7½, and a local sale was made at \$30. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farham & Co. were placed at Tls. 170 cash and Tls. 174 for the 30th June. There are cash shares offering at the same price. Shanghai Engineering Dock shares were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 76. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares are obtainable at Tls. 118. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares have been sold at Tls. 88.87, Hongkong Land Investment shares are offering at \$73. In a trial.—Major Brothers' shares changed hands at Tls. 33. International Cotton Mill shares are offering at Tls. 117. Lau-Kung-Mow Cotton Mill shares were sold at Tls. 101. Yah Loong shares are offering at Tls. 90. Shanghai Ice shares were placed at Tls. 115, and China Flour Mill shares at Tls. 58 cash and Tls. 56 ex new issue. Shanghai Feather Cleaning shares are obtainable at Tls. 50, while buyers offer Tls. 450. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Cargo Boat shares are offering at quotations. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares are wanted at Tls. 291. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands for cash at Tls. 84, and for August delivery at Tls. 81. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 250, and are offering. The second call of Tls. 25 on the new shares is due on the 15th June. Hall & Holtz shares were placed at \$11. J. Llewellyn & Co. shares at \$70, and Central Store shares at \$12. Loans.—Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. Debenture were sold at Tls. 101, and Perak Sugar Company's 7 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 100. The Municipal Council ask for tenders for Tls. 30,000 for 6 per cent. Debentures payable in not less than five or more than twenty years from the 30th June next, the list to close on the 25th June. The balance of the 1888 Loan, and Tls. 12,000 of the 1890 Loan, will be paid on the 30th June.

Quotations are:—

BANKS.	
Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$176.25.	
Bank of China and Japan, defd.—£5.5.0	
Do. ordinary.—Nominal.	
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$18.50.	
COTTON MILLS.	
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 101.00.	
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—27.00.	
International Cotton M. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 107.00.	
Lau-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 101.00.	
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 520.00.	
DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.	
Ryde & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.	
Boyl & Co., Limited.—Tls. 197.54.	
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$7.	
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$438.75.	
S. C. Farham & Co.—Tls. 173.00.	
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 76.00.	
Shanghai & Hongkong Wharf Co.—Tls. 118.00.	
INSURANCES.	
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$137.50.	
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$95.	
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$65.	
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$335.	
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 182.50.	
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$11.75.	
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$225.	
Yangtze Insurance Assn., Ltd.—\$134.	
LANDS.	
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$73.	
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$81.	
Shanghai Land Invest. Co., (fully pd.)—Tls. 87.00.	
MINING.	
Punjoni Mining Co., Ltd.—\$5.50.	
Punjoni Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.80.	
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$30½.	
Sacridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 2.50.	
SHIPPING.	
China-Mutual preference.—Tls. 62.25.	
Do. ordinary, £3 paid.—Tls. 26.	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 160.00.	
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$59.	
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$27.	

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 45.88.	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 130.00.	
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.00.	
Taka Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 110.00.	
SUGAR.	
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$16J.50.	
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$16.	
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 36.00.	
MISCELLANEOUS.	
American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 94.00.	
Central Stores, Ltd.—\$12.00.	
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 58.00.	
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$41.00.	
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$70.00.	
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 85.00.	
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 500.00.	
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215.00.	
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 60.00.	
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 115.00.	
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 250.00.	
Do. New Issue.—Nominal.	
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 30.00.	
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 82.00.	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 294.00.	
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$12.	

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 16th May (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—We have to record a rise of 5s. in New York direct rates, and though it came about somewhat suddenly, it was only to be expected sooner or later, in sympathy with the rise *via* London. The new tariff rates to London will be charged after the 21st May. Coastwise.—There is little to report beyond a maintenance in rates, and while there has been a fair enquiry for vessels, nothing new has transpired, owing to the absence of available tonnage. For Hankow.—The *Onyia* left here on the 13th to load tea for London. At present it is impossible to form an idea of what her rate will be, but teamen seem to think that she will leave Hankow a full ship. It is intended to circulate her about 22nd instant. For London *via* Suez.—Departures have been five in number, rather more than sufficient for shippers' requirements, business being generally dull all round. As the new tariff rates come into force on the 21st instant, our quotations at foot have been altered to conform with the new list. For New York *via* Cape.—There are small lots of cargo offering for sail tonnage, but in the absence of any vessel on the berth, nothing has been done. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 55s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Königsberg *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 3s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 3s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 2½ cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 19s. nominal. New York *via* Pacific, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbraid. New York *via* Suez, 27s. 6d. per ton tea and general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric. Boston, 40s. per ton tea and general cargo; 10s. extra for Turmeric. Philadelphia, 40s. per ton tea and general cargo; 10s. extra for Turmeric. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$2.25 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2.25 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe 33 sen; Newchwang to Swatow 35 cents; Newchwang to Canton 40 cents; Wuhu to Canton 25 cents.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Candia (str.), Canton, (str.), Sarpedon (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.), Bengal (str.). For SAN FRANCISCO.—U. of Rio de Janeiro (str.), Imberhorne, Coptic (str.). For NEW YORK.—Energia (str.), Queen Margaret (str.), St. David. For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.). For BREMEN.—Preussen (str.). For HAVRE.—Bellona (str.), Siam (str.). For PORTLAND.—Braemar (str.). For TACOMA.—Olympia (str.). For AUSTRALIA.—Chingtu (str.), Omi Maru (str.). For MARSEILLE.—Indus (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.). For VICTORIA.—Olympia (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

May—

ARRIVALS.

- 14, Tetartos, German str., from Chinkiang.
 14, Hansa, German str., from Saigon.
 14, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
 14, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
 14, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 14, Arizona, British str., from Glasgow.
 14, Matsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 14, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.
 15, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 15, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
 15, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 15, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 15, Kalgan, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Nanyo Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
 15, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
 15, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Quarta, German str., from Canton.
 15, Progress, German str., from Newchwang.
 15, Dean, British str., from Bangkok.
 15, E. C. Mowatt, Amr. bark, from N'castle.
 15, Nanchang, British str., from Hongay.
 16, Antenor, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Rio, German str., from Saigon.
 16, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 16, Lysemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 16, Hangchow, British str., from Wuhu.
 16, Propontis, British str., from Moji.
 16, Astrid, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 16, Fukui Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 17, Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.
 17, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 17, Loksang, British str., from Chefoo.
 17, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 17, Egramont Castle, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 17, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 17, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
 17, Wuhu, British str., from Bangkok.
 17, Castle Ventry, British str., from Cardiff.
 17, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 18, Deucalion, British str., from Sandakan.
 18, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 18, Else, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Martha, German str., from Saigon.
 18, P. C. C. Kiao, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Volute, British str., from Batoum.
 18, Sullberg, German str., from Newchwang.
 19, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
 19, Hunsang, British str., from Moji.
 19, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 19, Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
 19, Marquis Bacquehem, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 19, Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
 19, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 19, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 19, Progress, German str., from Canton.
 19, Aktiv, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 19, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 19, Tientsin, British str., from Bangkok.
 20, Samar, Amr. bark, from Newcastle.
 20, Hongleong, British str., from Straits.
 20, Candia, British str., from Yokohama.
 20, Brindisi, British str., from Moji.
 20, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Nanyang, German str., from Swatow.
 20, Benlmond, British str., from Saigon.
 20, Onsang, British str., from Samarang.
 20, Indus, French str., from Shanghai.
- May—
 14, Parramatta, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Coromandel, British str., for Europe, &c.
 14, Niniwa, Japanese cr., for Manila.
 14, Framnes, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 14, Kwaglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 14, Orestes, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Tailoe, German str., for Amoy.
 15, Armenia, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Formosa, British str., for London.
 15, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Kaisow, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Min, British str., for Diamond Island.
 15, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 15, Tolna, Amr. schr., for Singapore.
 16, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
 16, Tetartos, German str., for Canton.
 16, Java, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Kriemhild, German str., for Kobe.
 16, Rohilla, British str., for Yokohama.
 16, Wilhelmina, Dutch str., for Bangkok.
 16, Lysemoon, German str., for Canton.

- 16, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 16, Pique, British cruiser, for Manila.
 17, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
 17, Progress, German str., for Canton.
 17, Shantung, British str., for Sourabaya.
 17, Frejr, Danish str., for Haiphong.
 17, Triumph, German str., for Hoilow.
 17, Antenor, British str., for London.
 17, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 17, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
 17, Bormida, Italian str., for Bombay.
 17, Matsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 17, Quarta, German str., for Cheribon.
 17, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 17, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
 17, Wuhu, British str., for Kobe.
 18, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
 18, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 18, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 18, Ariel, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 18, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 18, Doyo Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 18, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for V'couver.
 18, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, Thokla, German str., for Hamburg.
 19, Aldershot, British str., for Hongay.
 19, Tamarind, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
 19, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 19, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
 19, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., for Amoy.
 19, Hansa, German str., for Saigon.
 19, Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.
 19, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 19, Phra Chom Kiao, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
 19, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 19, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Swift, British gunboat, for Manila.
 20, Aktiv, Danish str., for Hongay.
 20, Kalgan, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Kinshu Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 20, Humber, British storeship, for Chefoo.
 20, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
 20, Progress, German str., for Chefoo.
 20, Tientsin, British str., for Kobe.
 20, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Formosa*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Master and 2 children; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Golland, 2 children and infant, Miss Mowett, and Mrs. Boyce Kup.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong for London, Mr. C. M. G. Burnie, Comdr. E. J. W. Slade, Messrs. J. Noble, G. Menzies, A. Richardson, J. S. Watta, G. H. Morris, J. H. Morrish, D. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Marshall, Miss Marshall, and Mr. R. Miller; from Gibraltar, Sergt. and Mrs. S. L. Martin and 2 children; from Brindisi, Comdr. C. D. Granville; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Meyer, Messrs. E. D. Ezra, J. Ezra, Lawson, Dr. W. Dyckerhoff, Messrs. Otto Dyckerhoff, W. A. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Low Long Teng, child and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Yeap Chin Lim, Messrs. Yeap Chean and Yeo Lim; for Kobe from Bombay, Mr. Jamséti Temulji; for Yokohama from London, Messrs. Buckland and K. Gammell; from Brindisi, Capt. J. Murray; from Ismailia, Mr. and Mrs. Schunck; from Singapore, Mr. Edmondson; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. C. W. Prescott and F. A. Lander; from Ismailia, Mr. L. Liccareo; from Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. England, Mr. and Mrs. Hetfield.

Per *Java*, from London, &c., for Yokohama, Mr. Bagshawe, Capt. Simmonds; for Manila, Mr. Webster; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. L. Oxley Jurgens and 2 children.

Per *Siam*, from Copenhagen, &c., Mr. Barret (American Minister), Messrs. Carol, Jensen, Lickenberg, and Mrs. Bock.

Per *Airlie*, from Sydney, &c., Miss Crerar, Miss Worsp, Mrs. Sydney Jones, Messrs. A. Wright, A. Wenz, Jas. Cox, E. Walker, Miss Morpheu, Miss Hewitt, Mr. H. Philips, Mr. and Mrs. Rapol and 3 children.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, &c., Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Todd and child, Miss Beatrice Earnshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Thistlewaite and child, Mr. and Mrs. D. Souza, Miss D. Souza, Messrs. Robert Hug, O. D. Saunders, C. Zuber, W. Robertson, H. A. Barrett, W. Coney, W. Macleod, Robt. Vogler, Eugene Rossell, and F. Josefson.

Per *Tsinan*, from Sydney, Mrs. and Miss Gaskin, Mrs. Brand, Mr. and Mrs. Milner,

Misses Milner, Mr. and Mrs. Sandover, Messrs. J. J. Todd and E. Davis, Hon. E. Whittenoon, Capt. Mitchell, Messrs. F. Daekland and F. Dugdale.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Finch and child, Mr. C. R. Scott, Dr. Longeway, Mr. J. L. Baskett, Mr. and Mrs. Hershheim, and Mr. R. Gutierrez; for Bombay, Messrs. B. S. Mehta, D. C. Mehta, and E. Jafferjee; for Gibraltar, Mr. Duncan Mackinley; for London, Lieut. T. E. Wardle, R.N., Lieut. R. M. Stephen, R.N., Mrs. Close, Mrs. M. Beyfus, Messrs. J. Hogg, S. J. Bradley, G. Stanbury, and T. C. Cook; from Yokohama for London, Mr. H. Booth, Mr. and Miss Booth, Mrs. Cottrell, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, and Mr. Visvesaraya; from Shanghai for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. R. Brough, Misses Temple, Watt-Tanner, Harrington, Hardy, and Monkman, Mr. and Mrs. Plimmer, Messrs. G. Majeroni, M. Majeroni, McIntyre, Robinson, Shine, Roberts, and Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Hards and child, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, Messrs. G. Gardner and W. Twist; for Bombay, Capt. Daniel, Messrs. Le Mare, McBarnett, Gordon, Millet, Lang, Lillie, Sherdow, Hinde, Jones, and Peard; for London, Dr. and Mrs. Wilton.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. C. Bethell, Mr. L. O. Levison, Mrs. H. Levison, Messrs. W. Poate, T. E. Tegelberg, A. Heldring, and J. Hewit, and Miss A. Hewit; for Yokohama, Mr. C. Abdoola.

Per *Formosa*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mrs. H. S. Playfair, Miss Playfair, Mr. and Mrs. Paget; from Shanghai for London, Mr. and Mrs. Golland and 3 children, Miss Mowett, and Mrs. Boyce-Kup.

Per *Java*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Mr. A. Wright, from Singapore, Mr. A. O. Jurgens, Mrs. Jurgens and 2 children; for Yokohama from London, Mrs. J. C. Bagshawe; from Singapore, Capt. Simmonds.

Per *Rohilla*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki, Mr. D. B. Paige, Mrs. Tour Koswar, and Mr. Hill; for Kobe, Mr. J. Danby; for Yokohama, Mr. J. A. Plummer, Mrs. L. Lee, Messrs. A. Hamilton, P. Mackay, K. Kitashima, Miss Toyo, Miss A. S. Morpheu, Miss Everall, and Mr. E. Gordon Lowder's 3 children; for Kobe from Bombay, Mr. Jamséti Temulji; for Yokohama from London, Messrs. Buckland and K. Gammell; from Brindisi, Capt. J. Murray; from Ismailia, Mr. and Mrs. Schunck; from Singapore, Mr. Edmondson.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Mooney and 4 children, Mr. A. MacLeay, Lieut. F. A. Powlett, Lieut. A. Bannerman, Messrs. T. Caroe and P. B. Pallison; for Nagasaki, Mr. Newman Mumford; for Kobe, Messrs. Ellia Kelly, M. H. Michael; for Yokohama, Capt. A. Tillet, Mrs. Mumford and child, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Loxley, Misses Loxley (3), Miss Purdon, Mrs. J. D. Monro, Miss Sidney Jones, Colonel and Mrs. O'Gorman, Consul and Mrs. Ford, Hon. J. and Mrs. Fergusson, Miss Fergusson, Messrs. H. M. Muckie, and H. E. Abdoola; for Vancouver, B.C., Mr. and Mrs. G. Banks, and Miss Banks; for Montreal from Yokohama, Mr. W. W. Oswald; for London from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Ede, Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Elton, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Schmeck, Mrs. and Miss Darcy Anderson, Col. Gorges; Mr. W. H. Grant, R.N., Messrs. F. B. Deacon, J. Dickie, O. Volckers, J. M. Henderson, O. J. Launders, and Capt. R. F. Gransmore, R.N.; for London from Shanghai, Miss E. M. Neilson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Bethell, Messrs. Granville Sharp, P. E. Tegelberg, and A. Heldring; for London from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Elder and child, Mr. Elder, Mrs. Elder, Miss Elder, Mr. and Mrs. V. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Rhodes, and Miss G. Smithson.

Per *Suisang*, for Singapore, Messrs. W. J. Murphy, Woods, and Pun Sum.

Per *Peru*, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Gaskin, Messrs. J. Naftaly and Chong Hoi Choy; for Kobe, Messrs. A. P. Madar and H. P. Madar; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Dodwell, Mrs. Bailey, and Mr. Max Edwards; for San Francisco, Messrs. A. T. Wilson, C. W. Prescott, C. R. Hetfield, Mr. E. Edwards, Mrs. Lee Sing Far, Mrs. Poo Yit Kau, and Mr. Yee Sai Hoo.

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